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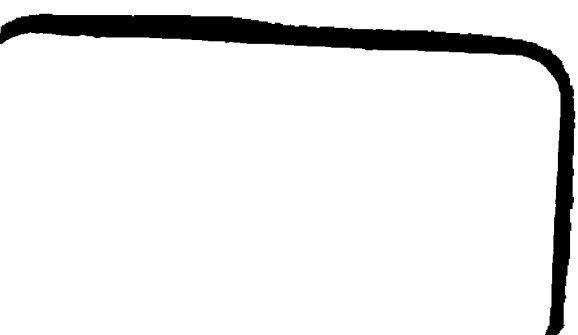
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CALDWELL









**HISTORY**  
**OF THE**  
**AMERICAN NEGRO**

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**VIRGINIA EDITION**

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**EDITED BY**  
**A. B. CALDWELL**

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**ORIGINAL EDITION**  
**ILLUSTRATED**

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**VOLUME V**

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8/ **1921**

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We have sought to make the work representative, dealing with the leaders in every honorable profession and line of work. The representatives of business and commercial life have been given a rather larger place than in any of the preceding volumes.

**THE PUBLISHER.**

11-10-1911



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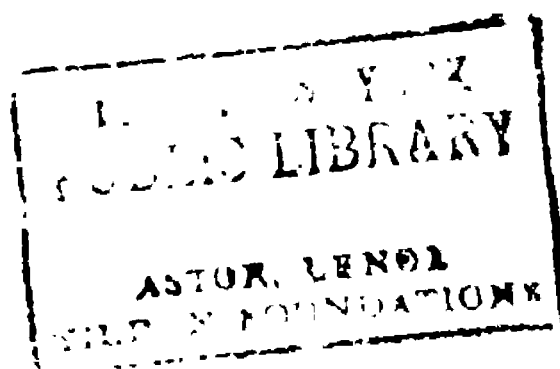
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Yours Truly -  
Maggie L. Baer.



# MAGGIE LENA WALKER

The story of the life and work of Mrs. Maggie Lena Walker of Richmond constitutes a chapter in the progress and development of the race, which should be read and studied by every aspiring boy and girl in the South. It is a story of struggle and shows to a rare degree the qualities of faith, courage and enthusiasm, even in the face of difficulties, and withal a fine disregard for such traditions and precedents as threatened to hamper or discourage her.

To say that Mrs. Walker has done a man's work, merely because she has done a number of things usually done by men, is not a fair statement of the case. Rather she has done her own work in her own way. One does not have to know her long, to learn that she loves her work and enjoys the arduous tasks which her success has brought with it. It is her life. Her thinking, her planning, and her actions are direct, straightforward, and constructive. This is true in her church work, her business operations, and her social relations. It is one of the secrets of her success. When she wants a thing she goes after it in the most direct and logical way and gets results. She is free from the hesitancy and variableness with which her sex is sometimes charged. Another quality which has contributed much to her success is her splendid executive ability. Neither in the office nor in the field, does she permit herself to be involved in details which others can handle as well. She has the happy faculty of putting others to work and of inspiring them with her confidence and enthusiasm. This does not mean that she spares herself, for all her life she has been a hard worker, but she works at the center where her efforts count for most and passes the details on to others.

Mrs. Walker is a native of Richmond, where she was born. Her maiden name was Mitchell and her mother was Elizabeth Mitchell, who was a daughter of Frederick and Peggy Draper.

As a girl, Mrs. Walker attended the Richmond public schools and passed from the grades into the high school,



from which she was graduated in 1888. The way was not easy. Her mother was a widow and had other children to support, so that it was necessary for our subject to make her own way, as well as contribute something to the support of the family, but the girl never faltered.

After her graduation she began teaching in the local schools and remained in that work till her marriage.

On Sept. 14, 1890, she was married to Mr. Armistead Walker, Jr., of Richmond, a son of Armistead and Mary A. Walker. After her marriage, the school board dispensed with her services, as was the rule. Two children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Walker: Russell E. T. and Melvin DeWitte Walker. Mr. Walker passed away on June 20, 1915.

Mrs. Walker took a commercial course and soon found steady and remunerative employment. In 1889, she was made Executive Secretary of the Independent Order of St. Luke. She had the wisdom to see the possibilities of the order and the ability to organize and push the work.

The records of the order tell the story of her splendid work. When she took charge there were a thousand members, now (1920) there are a hundred thousand in the twelve hundred and forty-five local lodges for adults and the nearly six hundred lodges for the juniors.

With the growth in finances, she was not slow to see the advantages arising from a bank in connection with the order. Accordingly, the St. Luke's Penny Savings Bank was organized in the fall of 1902, with Mrs. Walker as President. She was at that time the only woman bank president in the United States, and remains one of the very few. The bank has taken its place in the financial and commercial life of the city, and is in a prosperous condition, as shown by its official statement.

With the growth of the order in members and resources, there was also the need of headquarters or general offices, and a building for this purpose was accordingly erected. Today there stands on St. James Street, Richmond, a modern hundred thousand dollar office and business building,

which is itself a monument to Mrs. Walker's zeal and enthusiasm as well as good business sense.

She has done a great deal of outside organization work. She is a forceful and entertaining speaker and her voice has been heard frequently at race conferences and other meetings, not only in Virginia, but in every part of the country. She is a prominent and active member of the First Baptist Church, and has for a long time been a teacher in the Sunday School.

Mrs. Walker is President of the Council of Colored Women, which has a membership of 1,400. She is a Trustee of the National Training School for Girls and the Douglas Home, both at Washington, D. C. She is also a Trustee of the Industrial Training Home at Peake, Va., and the Negro Organization Society of Virginia.

Among the secret orders and benevolent societies, she is identified with the I. O. of St. Luke, Eastern Star, Household of Ruth, Ideal Shepherds, the Southern Aid, and the Richmond Benefit Association.

During the war she was a leader in the various drives and campaigns and the St. Luke's Building was the center of war activities for the race in Richmond.

Notwithstanding all these activities, this remarkable woman finds time for considerable reading and has occasionally taken up a correspondence course in order to keep up with the times.

She advocates no short cuts to success, but believes that progress must rest on such old-fashioned virtues as thrift, frugality, union, loyalty, confidence, and co-operation. She is herself a living example of what these things will accomplish in the life of an individual.

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## **JAMES H. BLACKWELL, JR.**

No story of the progress and development of the race in Virginia would be complete without some account of that brilliant young physician of Richmond, Dr. James Heyward Blackwell, Jr., Secretary of the Old Dominion Medical Society.

Dr. Blackwell was born on March 22, 1887, in what was then Manchester, now South Richmond. His father, Prof. James H. Blackwell, is a prominent and successful teacher, whose biography appears elsewhere in this volume. Dr. Blackwell's mother, before her marriage, was Miss Annie Estelle Jordan, a daughter of Armstead and Harriett Jordan, of Petersburg, Va.

Dr. Blackwell is the brother of Attorney George W. Blackwell, of Chicago, formerly assistant prosecuting attorney of the city of Chicago.

As a boy, young Blackwell attended the Manchester high school, from which he was graduated at the age of thirteen. He holds the record of being the youngest graduate of that school to the present day. He went to Virginia Union University for his college preparatory work, finishing the course there at the early age of sixteen, and holding the same record at that institution as at the Manchester high school.

It is interesting to note that, at the university, he took the record directly from his father as the youngest graduate, his father having held it from 1880 to 1903. Passing from Virginia Union University to Lincoln University, he won the highest honors in mathematics and was graduated with the A. B. degree in 1906. He was at once appointed Associate Professor of Mathematics at the same institution, but resigned a year later to take up the study of medicine.

In 1907, Lincoln University conferred on him the A. M. degree. He studied medicine at Howard University, where he won his M. D. degree in 1911. Returning to his home

**JAMES HEYWARD BLACKWELL, JR.**

town, he began the general practice in the fall of 1911, and has already firmly established himself in the professional, business, and social life of the city.

On Augusta 27, 1915, he was married to Miss Charlotte Virginia Jackson, daughter of Moses H. and Charlotte V. Jackson. Of the two children born to them, one survives—Heyward Jordan Blackwell.

Almost from the beginning of his practice, Dr. Blackwell took a prominent place in the local, state and national organizations of his profession. He has held the position of Secretary of the Richmond Medical Society for seven years, serving as President for one year. He has been Secretary of the Old Dominion Medical Society since 1916, and is Assistant Secretary of the National Medical Association.

Looking back over his career, Dr. Blackwell is of the opinion that the teachings and sacrifices of his parents, together with the achievements of others who went before, have been the chief inspiration of his life.

After his professional reading, he has a liking for political economy, psychology, and the best English and American classics. He gives special attention to literature of the race. In politics, he is a Republican and belongs to the Baptist Church. He is President of the Thursday Club, and is identified with the Good Samaritans and the Royal Order of Meneliks. He is also a prominent Mason.

Dr. Blackwell's investments and property interests are in and around Richmond. He is Vice President of the South Richmond Realty Corporation, and is Medical Examiner for the Richmond Beneficial Insurance Co., the United Working S. and D. of Zion, the Standard Life Insurance Co., American Beneficial Insurance Co., Southern Aid Society and the Love and Union Club.

He believes that the real progress of the race depends on thrift, education and the power of the ballot.

---

# HERBERT AUGUSTUS ALLEN

One of the progressive and successful young physicians of the Old Dominion is Dr. Herbert Augustus Allen of Richmond. Dr. Allen enjoys the distinction of having worked out for himself a large measure of success in his home town. He is a native of Richmond, where he was born, Jan. 31, 1885. His father, Robert J. Allen, was a Pullman porter and the son of Jane Allen.

Dr. Allen's mother was, before her marriage, Louisa Brockenborough, and she was the daughter of Joseph and Louisa Brockenborough.

As a boy, young Allen attended the Richmond public schools, from which he passed to Virginia Union University for his literary work. He was graduated from that institution in 1906. Later, he matriculated at Howard University for his medical course, where he won his M. D. degree in 1912.

On the completion of his course, he returned to Richmond, and right among the friends and neighbors, who knew his character and ability, began the practice of medicine. He has firmly established himself in the practice, and is prominent in the various local, state and national medical societies. He was at one time President of the Richmond Medical Society. He maintains a modern, well-equipped office on Buchanan Street.

Dr. Allen is a member of the Baptist Church, and is identified with the Masons, Odd Fellows, St. Lukes, and the Richmond Industrial.

While in college, he was active in athletics, and especially fond of baseball.

Following the example of his father, he worked as Pullman porter several years prior to his graduation from medical college.

On July 8, 1913, Dr. Allen was married to Miss Maggie May Jordan, a daughter of Harrison and Emeline Jordan.

Dr. Allen takes an active part in everything looking to the betterment of his people, and believes that the progress of the race depends on a spirit of racial co-operation.

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## ZACHARIAH D. LEWIS

Rev. Zachariah Dearborn Lewis, D. D., pastor of the Second Baptist Church of Richmond, has made for himself a prominent place in his denomination and the religious life of the State. This place has been won, not by accident nor chance, but by years of faithful, loyal service.

Dr. Lewis is a native of Campbell County, having been born at Perrowville in that county, Nov. 25, 1859. Thus it will be seen that he was a boy of school age at the close of the war.

His father, Rev. Reazin Lewis, was a local Baptist preacher, and in this way, the boy had the advantage of religious training from childhood. Dr. Lewis' mother was, before marriage, Maria Walker. In the absence of written records, he knows nothing of his ancestors back of his parents. While he was still a boy, the family moved to Lynchburg, and he worked in the tobacco factory and attended the public schools of Lynchburg. He was converted when about twenty years of age, and soon after felt called to the work of the ministry. He did not begin preaching, however, until 1883, when he was licensed by the First Baptist Church of Lynchburg. In 1884, he was ordained to the full work of the ministry by the same church, and for nearly forty years has been going in and out before the people. His first pastorate was the Shady Grove Baptist Church in Orange County, which he served four years. From that work, he was called to his present pastorate, the Second Baptist Church of Richmond, which he has served for thirty-one years. Here, the work has greatly prospered under his hand. He found a membership of about 800, which has now grown to more than 2,000.

The church has been practically rebuilt, and every de-

**ZACHARIAH D. LEWIS**





partment of the work has gone forward under his direction. He is a man of power and ability, a good preacher and a careful, patient pastor. Several years ago in a discussion with a Catholic priest upon the subject, "Who Can Forgive Sin?" he became famous as a religious debater and an able defender of the doctrines of his church and denomination. Dr. Lewis is also a man of good business ability. He is a member of the executive board of the Independent Order of St. Luke, and is Vice President of the St. Luke Penny Savings Bank. He is also identified with the Order of Love and Charity and is Editor of the Love and Charity Messenger. In addition, he is a member of the Masons. He has long been a prominent figure in his denomination. He was Secretary of the Shiloh Association for twenty years and gave up the position only on account of failing health. For seven years he was President of the General Association of Virginia and is now a member of the State Mission Board. He is on the Executive Board of the Lott Carey Convention and the Home Mission Board of the National Convention, also a Trustee of Virginia Union University.

As he looks back over the years of his boyhood and youth, he is inclined to give credit to his mother for the greatest inspiration that came into his life. He recalls to this day how she bought for him his first book and later induced him to go to school. She was ambitious for her boy in the best sense of the word.

On July 2, 1889, Dr. Lewis was married to Miss Ada McKinney of Richmond. She was a teacher in the public schools of Richmond. They have two children: Zachariah D. Jr. and Hattie, now Mrs. Bland. There are two grandchildren.

During the war, Dr. Lewis took an active part in all the drives and campaigns, and is now a member of the History Commission appointed to collect data for the same by Governor Davis of Virginia. In short, he has always sought to place himself in line with those movements which have for their objects the betterment of the race. He

organized the largest Negro sick and death benefit society in Virginia, the Southern Aid Society. He is the friend and supporter of education, but is of the opinion that the progress of the race depends on something even more vital than that. He looks to the homes and to the motherhood of the race for real and permanent progress, and this puts him in line with the best thought of the age.

---

## HARRISON L. HARRIS

In that part of Fairfax County which some years later was to become a part of the famous Bull Run battlefield, there was born on March 17, 1855, a Negro boy who was destined to make for himself a large place in the professional life of the State. That boy was Harrison Llewellyn Harris, now a successful practitioner in the capital city of the State and for thirty-six years Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Masons of Virginia. His father, Henry Harris, was free born. His mother, Jemima Harris, however, was a slave and as the condition of the children, by law, followed that of the mother rather than that of the father, Dr. Harris was in slavery for the first few years of his life, though Emancipation became an accomplished fact before he felt the weight of that baleful institution. His maternal grandmother was Secorda Manzings, who is reputed to have descended from an African prince. Certainly the name would indicate some such origin.

Early in the Civil War the family moved to Alexandria and it was there the boy attended school. As he grew older he learned the printer's trade and worked in the office of Fred Douglas and was soon self-supporting. He had the misfortune to lose his father while still a child, so that in the matter of education it was necessary for him to make his own way. His mother was ambitious for him, and while herself an uneducated woman, she encouraged her son in every way possible. When ready for his medi-

**HARRISON LEWELLYN HARRIS**

cal course, he matriculated at Howard University, where he won his M. D. degree in 1882.

Locating in Petersburg after his graduation, he began the practice which has continued to grow. He was for eight years a member of the Board of Health of Petersburg, serving one of these as President. In 1890 he opened an office in Richmond and since that time has practiced in the capital city, though he still calls Petersburg home and votes there. In recent years he has given special attention to obstetrics and the diseases of women and children.

On Nov. 14, 1883, Dr. Harris was married to Miss Jennie E. Arnold of Alexandria, who was at that time a teacher in the public schools. They have three children, H. L. Jr., of Chicago; Wm. H. and Carrie J. (now Mrs. Mackey). There are now (1920) five grandchildren.

Dr. Harris has long been prominent in the work of the secret orders and benevolent societies

For a third of a century he has been Secretary of the Virginia Grand Lodge of Masons and is regarded as an authority in matters of jurisprudence for this order. He is author of the order's official text-book. He is also affiliated with the Pythians, the Odd Fellows and the St. Lukes. He belongs to the various professional organizations such as the local, the State and the national medical societies. Besides this, he has been examiner for a number of the orders and has occasionally made contributions to the medical journals. He is an active member of the Baptist Church.

Dr. Harris is a man of wide experience and extensive observation, having traveled much in this country and considerably in Europe. He is Past Grand Chief of the I. O. of St. Luke and a director in their bank at Richmond, and owns considerable real estate in both Richmond and Petersburg. He has for years been a close observer and a careful student of conditions and is of the opinion that the race needs nor demands any special favors but merely a man's chance as citizens of a free country, and equality of opportunity.

# JOHN THOMAS HEWIN

The Negro preacher in the South fears no competition from the white preacher. The members of his congregation are not expected at the white churches. In a large measure the same is true of the Negro teacher. But with the Negro lawyer it is different. Not only does he come into keenest competition with the white attorney, but must also overcome, even among his own colored clients, a feeling that, in the courts presided over by white judges and before white juries, the white lawyer has certain advantages over his colored brother at the Bar. So it requires courage, equipment and steady perseverance on the part of the young colored man who would make a success in the legal profession. These are the qualities which have enabled John Thomas Hewin of Richmond to forge to the front both as a lawyer and as a business man. He was born in Dinwiddie County on Dec. 25, 1873. His mother, Harriet Hewin, passed away when the boy was only nine years of age. So from an early age he has been dependent, for both support and education, on his own efforts. He came to Richmond as a mere boy. Fortunately, he has never been afraid or ashamed to work.

He was willing to begin at the bottom if he could but see the way to something better. He went to school in Richmond and found work downtown at cleaning up offices. Later he secured a place as janitor at Smithdeal Business College, then located on Main street. By a special arrangement he was able to take the whole course, including commercial law. Later he matriculated at Boston University for his law course and also studied at the College of Liberal Arts. He won his LL. B. degree in 1900 and was admitted to the Bar in Virginia the same year. While studying in the North his vacations were spent at the summer resorts or on the steamboat lines where his earnings were sufficient each summer to take care of the following year's expenses at college.

He began the practice of law on July 6, 1900, and has steadily built up a good clientage. He practices in both

**JOHN THOMAS HEWIN**

the civil and criminal courts and as attorney for numerous organizations and business institutions has come to be recognized as one of the capable, conservative business men of the race. He is counsel for The Four and Twenty Elders, The Independent Order of St. Luke, The St. Luke's Savings Bank and the Order of Good Samaritans. He was one of the incorporators of The American Beneficial Insurance Co., for which he has been counsel since its organization. He handled the legal affairs of the organization in such a way that in 1915 he was elected President, which position he still holds.

As he looks back over the years of struggle, he is of the opinion that the most potent factor in his life has been contact with other men. It is not strange, therefore, that his favorite reading should be history and philosophy.

In politics, Mr. Hewin is a Republican. He is a member of the Ebenezer Baptist Church, in which he is a trustee. Among the secret orders he belongs to the Masons, the Odd Fellows, the Good Samaritans, the Four and Twenty Elders and the Shepherds of Bethlehem.

He has brought to bear his well-trained mind on racial conditions and has reached some definite conclusions which put him in line with the best thought of the day. He believes that the drift from the rural sections to the city should be arrested, that the youth of the race should be trained to continuity of action and steadiness of purpose, and that educational conditions should be improved and so adjusted as to make for the ends referred to above.

On June 4, 1902, Mr. Hewin was happily married to Miss Mattie Murphy Terrell of Richmond. She was educated in Richmond, taught for awhile and, was later engaged in commercial work. They have two children: J. Thomas, Jr., and Harriet T. Hewin.

There is no more elegant or substantial home among the colored people of Richmond than the place on North First Street, known in the community as the "Hewin House," constructed at a cost of \$42,500.

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# SIMON PETER ROBINSON

The Rev. Simon Peter Robinson, pastor of the Thirty-First Street Baptist Church of Richmond, began life under conditions which held out little promise of a career of large influence, yet he has made for himself a name and a place in the work of the kingdom and is a recognized leader in the great Baptist denomination. The secret of his success is to be found in the character of his work. He believes in thoroughness and has found that even a small field, thoroughly and intelligently worked, can be made to yield large results.

He was born in King William County, on June 1, 1870. His father, Rev. Simon Robinson, was a Baptist preacher, but he died before the boy was two years old. Even so young Robinson from earliest childhood was familiar with the work and worship of the church. His paternal grandfather was Burl Robinson. The mother of our subject was, before her marriage, Miss Phoebe Grantlin.

On Oct. 23, 1895, Rev. Robinson was happily married to Miss Olivia Rebecca Yancey of Richmond. They have two children, Olivia (Mrs. Hill), and Hortense B. (Mrs. Nelson).

Young Robinson grew up on the farm, where he remained till he was seventeen years of age. Up to that time he had gone to school only about three months, and that had been scattered over a period of three years. So, when he went to work in the C. & O. blacksmith shop he was practically without education. When about nineteen, he was converted and joined the church of which the late Rev. John Jasper was the pastor. Soon after this he felt called to preach, but neglected the matter for nine years. He was superintendent of the Sunday School at Sixth Mt. Zion and the leadership in that congregation was not such as to encourage education. He worked six years in the shop and later determined to go to school. Though now a mature man, he entered Virginia Union University, beginning at the bottom and making rapid progress. He was in

**SIMON PETER ROBINSON**

school fourteen years, twelve in day school and two in night school. In 1902 he was ordained to the full work of the ministry. With the advance in years and the growth in knowledge, the desire to be of real service in the world came to occupy a larger and larger place in his thinking and planning.

His first pastorate was the St. James Church in Goochland County, where he preached two Sundays a month. Beginning here with a membership of only sixteen, he built and paid for a commodious new house of worship and trained the congregation along the lines of benevolent and denominational work. He resigned that work after a pastorate of seventeen years. The congregation was most reluctant to give him up. He also pastored Mt. Nebo Baptist Church in New Kent County for a while. In February, 1919, he came to the pastorate of the Thirty-First Street Baptist Church of Richmond, which, under his ministry of a little more than a year has taken on new life. An embarrassing debt has been canceled, money collected for repairs, and nearly a hundred new members added to the roll. Best of all, the spiritual growth and power of the congregation have kept pace with the growth in numbers and finances.

Mr. Robinson is a man of unique personality. He is an adept at helping young men who are just starting in the ministry. At the same time, he has the confidence of the older brethren. He is Moderator of the Tuckahoe Baptist Association. In his reading he, of course, gives first place to the Bible and theological literature. After that his favorite subjects are history and biography. His work in the country and in the city has enabled him to study general conditions and draw intelligent conclusions. He believes that the greatest need of the race is intelligent leadership which will reach out and train the country people as well as the city worker for efficient service.

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# TEMPLE CUTLER ERWIN

Prof. Temple Cutler Erwin, of Richmond, is a versatile man of affairs, who comes to the Old Dominion from Tennessee, though having been born in Birmingham, Ala., Dec. 31, 1878.

His work as Field Agent of the Negro Organization Society is well known. The purposes of that organization may perhaps best be stated in the language of its own literature: "To build better schools, lengthen terms, create and promote a general interest in education and co-operation between school and community.

"To improve the health of the people by enlightening the public on the causes and prevention of diseases, and by seeking to establish better health conditions at home and at all public meeting places.

"To secure co-operation among farmers in buying and selling products; enliven their conscience to the necessity of better methods in farming, and to encourage land buying.

"To wage an unceasing campaign for better homes and better morals, and thus to develop a higher type of citizenship."

Prof. Erwin's parents were John Quincy Adams and Hattie (Whitesides) Erwin. His paternal grandfather was also John Quincy Adams Erwin and his maternal grandmother Mrs. Fannie Whitesides.

When young Erwin was four years of age the family moved to Chattanooga, Tenn., and it was there that he laid the foundation of his education in the public schools. When he was about fifteen years old another move was made which took him to Nashville, where he did his preparatory and college work at Fisk University. Such was the condition of the family finances at the time that it was necessary for young Erwin to work out his own expenses. This he did by working mornings and evenings and serving as janitor at one of the local clubs. During school vacation he would spend the whole of his time at the club. One vaca-

tion was spent in the phosphate mines. Toward the close of his college course he taught for one year in Marshall County, having walked fifteen miles to secure the school. He earned a few dollars a month while in college as editor of the Fisk Herald, the college paper.

On completion of his work at Fisk, he went to Texas, where he taught for two years in Karnes County. After that he taught for two years at Bowling Green, Ky., and was at Mayesville, S. C., for a year. He was then made president of the Greenville College, at Greenville, Tenn., over which he presided for three and a half years. On Jan. 1, 1910, he was elected principal of the Dinwiddie Industrial School, an A. M. E. Zion institution at Dinwiddie, Va., which position he held until September, 1914, when he resigned to take up the work as Field Agent for the Negro Organization Society, previously mentioned. So it will be seen that Prof. Erwin has had an opportunity to study conditions among his people in various States; in fact, he has a pretty thorough knowledge of the whole South. He has definite and constructive ideas about the educational life of the people and still keeps up his interest in educational matters. He is at this time a trustee of the Dinwiddie Industrial School, but he saw in another direction an even more promising field and so, with others, organized what is known as the Melwin Finance Corporation of Richmond, of which institution he is the Secretary-Treasurer. The purpose of the organization is the promotion of banks and other financial institutions among the Negroes.

Prof. Erwin is peculiarly fitted, by his ability and tact, for this character of work. Associating with him some of the most enterprising spirits in and around Richmond, The Commercial Bank & Trust Company of Richmond was recently organized, with an authorized capital of \$250,000. It was seen that Prof. Erwin was the logical man for the presidency of this new financial venture and accordingly he was unanimously elected to that position.

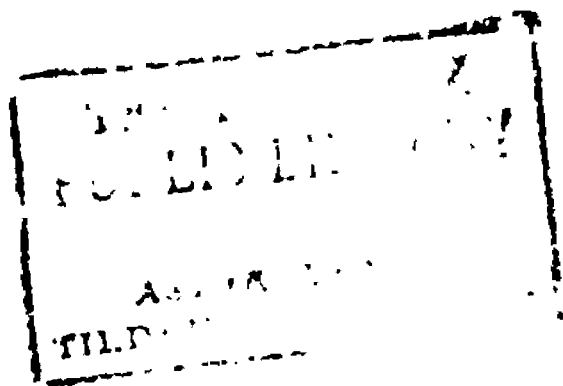
He is an active and prominent member of the A. M. E. Zion Church and chairman of its local board of trustees.





J. C. Egan





He belongs to a number of the secret orders, the Masons, St. Luke's, True Reformers, American Woodmen and the National Ideal Benefit Society. He is also chairman of the Negro Section of the Board of Collaborators of the Virginia War History Commission which is gathering material for the history of the part which Virginia citizens took in the war.

While in college, Prof. Erwin was an athlete. He played on the football team for two years and was captain of the baseball team. His favorite reading is biography.

On April 12, 1906, he married Miss Xenia Lucile Stewart, of Bowling Green, Ky. She is also an educator by profession.

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## SAMUEL D. CALLOWAY

Dr. Samuel Dismond Calloway, one of the energetic and successful young dentists of Richmond, has firmly established himself in a good practice and enters heartily into the professional, business and social life of the city. Not a few young men think it necessary, after going through college, to go away from home in order to succeed. A few, however, take up the work of life and succeed in their native towns, among those who know their characters and understand their abilities best. Dr. Calloway is among this number. He was born at Richmond, Nov. 10, 1885. His parents were John and Ella (Tinsley) Calloway. John Calloway was a son of Mary Calloway, while Ella Tinsley was a daughter of Carolina Tinsley.

As a boy, young Calloway attended the local public schools, from which he passed to Virginia Union University, where he took the preparatory course. Thus equipped, he matriculated at Howard University, Washington, D. C., for his dental course, and won his D. D. S. degree in 1912.

By hard work and close economy, he was able to maintain himself in school and complete his course without a break.

**SAMUEL DISMOND CALLOWAY**

The year following his graduation, he began the practice in Richmond, where he has since resided. He took an active part in college athletics while in school and played both baseball and football. On Sept. 23, 1913, Dr. Calloway was happily married to Miss Ernestine Christian of Richmond. She was educated in the home schools and was before her marriage an accomplished teacher. They have two children, Samuel D., Jr., and William Calloway.

In politics, Dr. Calloway is a Republican. He is a member of the Baptist Church and belongs to the Elks. He holds membership in the Old Dominion Dental Association, the Richmond Medical Society and the Peter B. Ramsey Dental Society. He is a member of the N. A. A. C. P.

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## ULYSSES S. GRANT JONES

Dr. Ulysses Simpson Grant Jones is a native of Petersburg, where he was born January 7, 1885, and is named for the man who did perhaps more than anyone else to make his native town famous. Dr. Jones' father, Robert J. Jones, was a son of Mary (Bland) Jones. His mother, before her marriage, was Miss Elizabeth Osborne.

Dr. Jones is in every way well equipped for his work. Growing up in Petersburg, he attended the local public schools, from which he passed to Virginia Union University for his college course, which he completed with the A. B. degree in 1907. Later, deciding to take up medicine, he matriculated at Leonard Medical College, Raleigh, N. C., where he won the M. D. degree in 1913. During his college days his vacations were spent at the North in hotel and steamboat service. He was an active baseball player but has given little attention to the game since graduation.

Upon the completion of his medical course, he located at Charleston, W. Va., where he practiced for two years. In 1915 he returned to his old home, where he has since resided and practiced with marked success. He is a member of the National Medical Society and is also identified with

**ULYSSES SIMPSON GRANT JONES**

the Old Dominion Medical Association. He is president of the local association among the doctors known as the Appomattox Medical Society.

While not active in politics, Dr. Jones is a Republican and is a member of the Baptist Church. His secret order affiliations are with the Pythians, Masons, St. Lukes, for which he is medical examiner as well as for the North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company.

Dr. Jones volunteered, during the war, in the Medical Reserve Corps, but was not called into the service. His personal and property interests are at Petersburg, though he is a stockholder and director in the Commercial Bank & Trust Company of Richmond.

Dr. Jones was united in matrimony daughter of Mrs. Della Perry of graduate of Shaw University and a successful teacher. They have . Jones, Jr., and Burton P. Jones.

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## DEC C. CLARKE

Melchesidec Clarence Clarke, of Richmond, is President of the Melwin Finance Corporation, one of the few Negro finance corporations in the country.

Mr. Clarke is a native of North Carolina, having been born at Lewiston, in that State, on November 10, 1889. His parents were Jesse and Elydia (Pugh) Clarke. The family moved from North Carolina to Virginia when the boy was about four years old. He went to the Franklin Normal School, at Franklin, Va., where he laid the foundation of his education and passed thence to Kittrell College, Kittrell, N. C., for two years. From Kittrell he went to the State University at Columbus, Ohio, for two years. His desire for an education may be measured by the fact that he worked during his school days on the school farm, and in hotels, morning and evening, for his board. During the whole period of his college course he did not give himself

a single vacation but spent the summers, for the most part, in hotel work at popular resorts. He early learned to concentrate on the work in hand and in consequence made a good record as a student and as an employe. With confidence in himself and in his fellow man, he forged steadily ahead and has made for himself a record in the business world of which a man of fifty might well be proud.

After coming out of school, he began work as an agent for the North Carolina Mutual Insurance Company, in January, 1914. He soon demonstrated his ability and was promoted to the district superintendency and sent to Fayetteville, N. C. From this, he was promoted to the general agency and sent to Newport News, Va. In that capacity he worked for two years. While there, he was elected cashier of the Crown Savings Bank, which position he held until the demands of the insurance work required all his time and necessitated his resignation as cashier.

In August, 1919, Mr. Clarke was again promoted and sent to Richmond to look after the interests of the company in the capital city. Here the development of new interests made it necessary to resign his insurance work, but he carried with him the good will and strong testimonials of his former employers, including both the heads of the insurance company and the bank at Newport News.

In January, 1920, he began the organization of The Commercial Bank & Trust Company of Richmond, with an authorized capital of \$250,000. This work was undertaken in connection with Prof. T. C. Erwin and others, of Richmond, and Mr. Clarke was chosen Secretary-Treasurer of the organization. As previously stated, he is also President of the Melwin Finance Corporation, which has for its purpose the promotion of banks and other commercial enterprises and is a pioneer among the Negroes of that line of work.

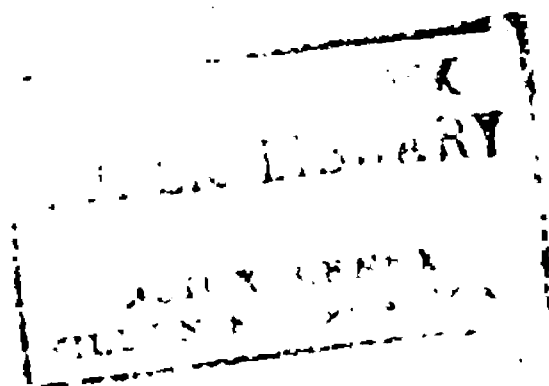
Mr. Clarke is an active member of the Episcopal Church and is affiliated with the Masonic order, having taken the thirty-second degree.







W. Clark



On June 28, 1913, he married Miss Callie Electa Mack, a daughter of Jeremiah and Mildred Mack, of Wilmington, N. C. Mr. Clarke keeps in touch with the movements of the world through the current literature of the day and has found most helpful the modern business course issued by the Alexander Hamilton Institute. He believes that the best interests of the race, State and nation, are to be promoted by proper education and economic development.

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## **SAMUEL ALLEN BROWN**

It is not easy to write the story of a man like the Rev. Samuel Allen Brown, pastor of the Gilfield Baptist Church of Petersburg. It is to be hoped that sometime Dr. Brown will write an autobiography in which not only his own story, but the remarkable story of his family, may be told.

Dr. Brown is a native of Charles City County, where he was born Feb. 27, 1876. His father, Rev. Samuel Brown, Sr., was a Baptist minister, who enjoyed the distinction of being the first ordained Negro Baptist preacher of Virginia. He was ordained in 1860 and was pastor of the Elam Baptist Church for twenty-one years. This same historic church had been organized by the grandfather of our subject, Abraham Brown, in 1810. The family history can be traced back even further, to England; but the Browns have resided in the same section and, in fact, on the same plantations, since 1789. Dr. Brown's mother was, before her marriage, Miss Martha Bowman.

Dr. Brown was married on Sept. 2, 1903, to Miss Clementine Poole, of Warwick Court House, Va. She was an accomplished teacher, having received her education at the State Normal at Petersburg. Dr. and Mrs. Brown have six children: Mildred O., Ernestine A., Samuel H., Lucille I., Wilbur W., and Luther Brown.

Growing up in his native county, young Brown went to school there and later entered the State college at Petersburg, where he took first the normal and later the college

**SAMUEL ALLEN BROWN**

course, which was completed with the A. B. degree in 1902. He was brought up in a home atmosphere of piety and at the early age of twelve joined the Elam Baptist Church, with which his father and grandfather had been so long identified. There was always a feeling on the part of his friends that he would be a preacher, but as a matter of fact he was never licensed for the ministry, though active in various phases of religious work. While in college he became identified with the Y. M. C. A. and was "Y" Secretary at Petersburg for a year after finishing his studies.

He then began teaching and was for eleven years principal of the Fredericksburg Public School. In 1905, at Fredericksburg, Va., the subject of this sketch organized and established the Fredericksburg Normal and Industrial High School. The school was opened in the basement of the Shiloh Baptist Church and after the first year's work the present home of the school, consisting of a fifty-five-acre tract of land, adjacent to and lying south of the city, was bought. Two buildings were erected in which were four classrooms and dormitories. The State Board of Education has recognized the merits of the work by giving to each graduate a State certificate for seven years to teach in the State without examination.

The city also has recognized the worth of the work and so has made an annual appropriation of \$1,000. The tract of land was divided so as to reserve twenty acres for a demonstration plat and the remainder was laid off in blocks and lots so that a settlement might be developed. Lots were then sold and now there are sixtythree dwellings surrounding the school, varying from \$1,000 to \$3,500 in value. This beautiful settlement is now known as Mayfield. While here he kept in touch with the religious life of his section and was always willing to do his part in any public undertaking. Being a man of learning and a ready speaker, he was frequently called on to make addresses. This, coupled with his well-known piety, created the impression that he was a minister. As a matter of fact, he was really ambitious to practice medicine, but could not turn his mind successfully

in that direction because of his religious predilection. While engaged in teaching at Fredericksburg, he was actually called by a church in Spottsylvania County and was then under the necessity of explaining that he was not a minister. This attitude was not due to any desire on his part to evade or shirk, but rather to a feeling of unworthiness for the high calling. At the earnest solicitation of his friends, however, he overcame this feeling and was ordained to the ministry and took up the work of the pastorate.

Needless to say, he was successful from the beginning and served that first church for five years. Other calls came to him, including that of the old home church. While on work in Spottsylvania he was also called to the Mt. Garland Baptist Church in Louisa County, which he served for five years. He also preached at Mt. Hope for nearly ten years.

He had not long been actually in the ministry, however, before he attracted the attention of the large city congregations, and, in 1913, accepted a call from the Gilfield Baptist Church of Petersburg. This work was organized over a century before—in 1803—and is one of the pioneer Negro churches in Virginia. Not only has the congregation lived up to its fine traditions of faithful service for years, but has, under the ministry of Dr. Brown, taken on new life and is now regarded as one of the strong churches of the denomination.

Dr. Brown has taken his place in the community as a representative citizen and is identified with various organizations and enterprises looking to the uplift of the race.

Dr. Brown did his theological work under private tutors, but has the D. D. degree from Virginia Theological Seminary and College at Lynchburg. He was active in war work and is identified with the Ideal Investment Company of Petersburg, being one of its organizers. He is a forceful and effective speaker, a careful and methodical pastor and a good executive. He believes that the things which will contribute most to the progress and development of the race are sympathy and a better and more cordial understanding between the races.

# **SAMUEL PETER COOKE**

**No State in the Union has furnished the A. M. E. Zion connection more strong men than has North Carolina. Its contribution to the ministry of that denomination has been splendid. It includes bishops, presiding elders, and pastors of the highest rank in the church. Among these must be mentioned Rev. Samuel Peter Cooke, now (1920) residing at Norfolk, Va., and presiding over the Norfolk District. He was born at Henderson, N. C., March 1, 1857, and is a son of Robert and Fannie (Hawkins) Cooke. His father was sold away from the rest of the family before the boy was born. His maternal grandparents were Nathan and Susan Hawkins. He grew to manhood and was educated in North Carolina. Coming to school age soon after the war, he attended school at Henderson, and when ready for college went to Shaw University, from which he was graduated with the A. B. degree in 1877. Prior to this, he had learned the barber trade and by means of his trade, by painting, and by work on the farm, made his school expenses. His way was not easy, but he early showed that spirit and determination which later made of him a leader in his denomination. A thing might be difficult without being impossible. About the time he reached his majority, he was happily converted and about six years later consecrated his life to the work of the ministry. He joined the conference under Bishop Thompson at Goldsboro in 1886 and has since been one of the active men of the denomination. His first appointment was to a mission at Oxford, where he preached for one year. He was then transferred to the Chowan Circuit in the Virginia Conference, which he served for four years. Here he built two churches and made such a record that he was promoted to the presiding eldership and presided over the Petersburg District for six years. He afterward presided over the Edenton District for fourteen years and has been on the Norfolk District for nearly four years. In the meantime he has served some important stations, such as the Metropolitan Station of Norfolk, Va. It is as a presiding**



**SAMUEL PETER COOKE**

best known. While himself a good good executive ability and has the quality of leadership. He is a denominational gatherings, having attended since 1888 with the single means that he has traveled all over

s, Dr. Cooke belongs to the Masons politics he is a Republican. These his attention, however, as he dedicates of purpose to the sacred work gives that the greatest bar to the is the lack of efficient leadership. He is for the improvement of that condition, values and is a lover of history, he gives the Bible and his theological reading. Livingstone College B. D. upon him in 1908.

was united in matrimony to Miss Anderson, N. C. She, like her husband, is a member of the University. Seven children are Robert L., Leonora E. (Mrs. Mrs. Yancey), William T., David B., and W. Cooke. There are now

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## T. ELDRIDGE

of the Old Dominion there is no one who speaks higher than does Rev. Schuyler of the First Baptist Church in the city of Petersburg. The other ministers of the denomination always hear him gladly at conventions and denominational gatherings.

Dr. Eldridge is a native of Loudon County, Tenn., where he was born July 31, 1881. His parents, William Albert and Vienna (Schuyler) Eldridge, were devout people, the former

being a deacon in the Baptist Church. His mother was a public school teacher for thirty years. She was the daughter of Annanias and Annie Schooler.

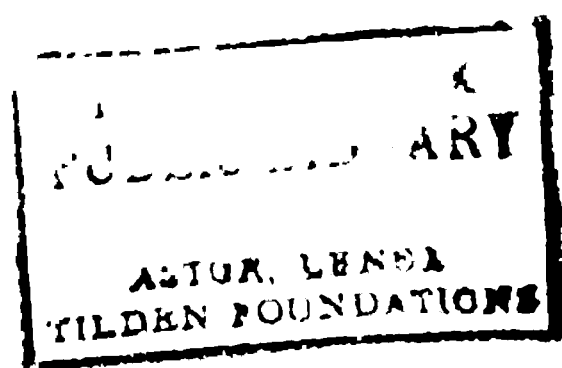
Growing up in Loudon County, young Eldridge attended the local public schools and passed from there to the Freedmen's Normal Institute at Maryville, Tenn. When ready for more advanced work he matriculated at Knoxville College and remained at that institution up to and through the junior year, also taking the course in theology. Both here and at Maryville it was necessary for the young man to make his own way. He was possessed of a determination, however, which did not take failure into account.

He was converted when about fourteen years of age and identified himself with the Mt. Olive Baptist Church. Even from boyhood, Dr. Eldridge felt impressed with the obligation to preach the Gospel and was licensed at the age of twenty-one and later ordained by the home church to the full work of the ministry. Fluent in speech, pious in life, and prepossessing in appearance, he was successful from the beginning.

On Aug. 20, 1902, he was married to Miss Mattie Kennedy, of Maryville, Tenn. Mrs. Eldridge, who, before her marriage, was a teacher, had been educated at Swift Memorial School at Rogerville, Tenn. Of the children born to them, three are living. They are Edna May, Kenneth C., and Schuyler Thomas Eldridge, Jr.

Dr. Eldridge taught school for several years in Tennessee. His first regular pastorate was at Little Zion Baptist Church, now Rodgers Memorial, which he served for seven years. This was during his college days. He cleared the property of debt and remodeled the parsonage. From Rodgers Memorial he was called to the Ebenezer Church at Charlotte, N. C., which he served for six years. Under his ministry the work at Ebenezer took on new life. A parsonage was erected near the church and a thousand new members added to the roll and every department of the work strengthened. A debt of \$5,000.00 was

**SCHUYLER T. ELDRIDGE**



cleared up and the young pastor soon became one of the most popular preachers in that part of the State.

He was called from Charlotte to his present pastorate, the First Baptist Church of Petersburg and is now (1920) in his fourth year in its service. This is one of the historic old churches of Virginia, with a present membership of more than a thousand. Under the leadership of Dr. Eldridge the work has been thoroughly organized and is moving along satisfactorily.

While residing in Tennessee, he was Moderator of the Knox District Association for two years and was Vice President of the Baptist State Convention; also President of the Board of Trustees of Nelson Mary College at Jefferson City. While in North Carolina, he was made financial agent of the Reform School and saved the property of that institution. During the war he was active in the various campaigns and drives and was fully identified with the regular work at Camp Lee. His property interests are in Tennessee and North Carolina. The degree of D. D. was conferred on him by Friendship College, of Rock Hill, S. C.

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## FENDALL W. WILLIAMS

About five years after the close of the war, on Feb. 14, 1870, there was born in the historic old county of King William a boy who was destined to occupy a large place in the onward and upward movement of the race. When fifteen years of age, the boy gave his young heart to God. From that time forth he put God at the center and everything else in life has been placed where it is, with relation to God. So in loyalty to God and unselfish service to others we have the secret of the success of Rev. Fendall Wallace Williams, D. D., the subject of this biography. The years have brought experience, popularity, financial strength and high official position, but these are all incidental. He is a messenger, an ambassador of Jesus Christ in the world, and that has been his main business.

The parents of our subject were George and Mary Williams. They were members of the Baptist Church, of which the father was a deacon. His paternal grandparents were John and Nancy Williams.

Young Williams grew up on the farm and laid there the foundation of that robust manhood which has stood so well the strain of the years. As he grew to young manhood he was ambitious to study law or medicine but after his conversion could never make his mind work in that direction. He began his schooling in the local public schools, from which he passed to the V. N. C. I. at Petersburg. For his theological training he went to Virginia Union University, where he won his B. D. degree in 1901. In 1891 he was licensed to preach by the Mt. Olive Baptist Church of King William and five years later was ordained to the full work of the ministry by the same church. He was in demand as a preacher even before completing his theological course and declined a call from the First Baptist Church of Westfield, N. J., rather than leave his course unfinished. Even to this day he recalls with gratitude the work of his faithful teachers and holds that the struggles, the inspiration and contacts of his school days have been among the most potent factors, humanly speaking, which have entered into his life.

On June 19, 1901, Dr. Williams took an important step in life when he was married to Miss Bessie Harris, an accomplished young lady of Richmond. She was educated at Hartshorn College and was before her marriage a successful teacher. She entered most heartily and sympathetically into the work of her distinguished husband. Of the six children born to them five are living. They are Fendall, Charley, Lloyd, Mary and Lucile Williams.

His first pastorate was the Rising Mt. Zion Church, Richmond. Of his work there, he says: "When called to this work in 1898 I found their house of worship unfinished and the congregation worshipping in the basement. The membership was at low ebb in interest, numbers and spirituality. I looked the field over and went to work, under God, to resurrect the church. The people rallied to the sound of the







F. W. Williams



Gospel and filled the Lord's house. The house begun six years before was completed and paid for, more than 200 new members added, and the life and organization of the whole church strengthened in such a way that it was reflected in the business, social and intellectual life of the community. I served this church six years and while on this work was called to the St. James Church in Henrico County. I accepted this work in connection with Rising Mt. Zion and put into this field the same zeal and enthusiasm that had brought success in the city, and with the same results. The house of worship was remodeled, a debt canceled, and eighty new members added to the roll."

While still in Richmond, Dr. Williams was honored by a call from his old home church in King William, which he was compelled to decline. He had the satisfaction, however, of seeing a friend and classmate take up the work there.

In 1904, Dr. Williams resigned his work in Richmond to accept the call of the Queen Street Baptist Church of Norfolk, which he has served continuously since with remarkable success. The situation at Queen Street was far from promising. Other ministers had been afraid to take it up because of the outlook. A troublesome old debt had been hanging over the work for nearly twenty years and the membership was reduced to less than a hundred. Seven months later the mortgage for the old debt was burned and the church was overflowing. Now (1920) there are more than 1,300 members, who meet in a modern, commodious house of worship erected at a cost of \$35,000. The church owns property altogether to the value of \$100,000, entirely free from debt. In fact, when they raised the last claim against them they had a balance of \$7,000 left in the treasury.

On entering the new house of worship the pastor was impressed with the need of a united effort on the part of the churches in a city-wide evangelistic campaign. Other churches were interested, the Baptist Conference endorsed it, and Dr. Williams was appointed General Director. The meetings started in his church and the campaign spread

over the city and continued for four weeks. Norfolk had never before witnessed such a scene. Factories were closed, bar rooms were emptied, gambling dens put out of business, and houses of ill fame broken up. Policemen were idle and the Police Judge had but few cases. It was estimated that there were 5,000 conversions. Nearly 400 of these joined Queen Street Church and were baptized by Dr. Williams. After this, his place as a leader was fixed and his hold on the people unshakable. Other great churches have desired this peerless leader and some of them, like the Mt. Moriah Baptist Church of Washington, have called him, but he has preferred to remain in his native State, greatly to the delight of Norfolk and Virginia Baptists.

In 1907, he was called to the Ebenezer Church in Princess Anne County, where he worked the same sort of revolution in building, in membership and in finances that had characterized his work at other points.

Dr. Williams has not contented himself with doing the mere routine work of the pastorate but has sought to make his church count for good in the life of the community. He led a reform movement when it required real courage to oppose the forces of evil. He won because he was right and because he was unafraid. His relief work was also done on a large scale, so that while primarily ministering to the spiritual needs of the people, like the Master, he and his great church have fed the hungry, healed the sick, and clothed the naked.

It was not strange that a man of this type and character should attract the attention of the denomination. In 1919 he was chosen President of the General Baptist Association of Virginia, the biggest religious organization in the State. He is also Vice President of the Lott Carey Convention and identified with numerous religious and educational enterprises. He belongs to the Masons and Pythians. His relationship with the white leaders, business and religious, has been cordial always. He was a leader in war work among the colored people and made an enviable record for himself and his people.

## **SAMUEL GREY BULLOCK**

Among the young professional men of Danville none are more active or energetic than Samuel Grey Bullock, D. D. S. Though reared and educated in Washington, D. C., Dr. Bullock is a native of North Carolina, where he was born Aug. 6, 1890. His parents were Gus and Bettie E. Bullock. His maternal grandfather was Simon Bullock. While still a baby, our subject lost his father. Fortunately for the boy, his mother had visions for her son and when he was three years of age moved to Washington in order that he might have educational advantages which were not available where they resided in North Carolina.

The story of the strenuous years that followed cannot be told better than in his own straightforward manner. He says, "Having lost my father when a baby, my mother was the only support. During her life, school life for me was that of the average boy of working parents. When sixteen years of age I lost my mother, and from that time on it was a hard struggle to earn a livelihood and at the same time go to school. I was fortunate enough to obtain night work in hotels until, through civil service examination, I was given an appointment in the government printing office at Washington, where I went to work in August, 1909, as elevator conductor. At that time one or two of the elevators were in service twenty-four hours a day, the men changing at eight-hour intervals. As there was then no extra pay for night or Sunday work, none of the men wanted night work, but the men, about thirty in number, had to take turns at night work for a week at a time. I saw that if I could have this night shift permanently it would enable me to return to school. I applied for it and it was given to me. I went on at midnight and got off at 8 A. M. In this way I was able to enter the dental department of Howard University. The following summer, Aug. 10, 1910, I was married to Miss Marjorie Kieser of Calhoun Falls, S. C. By the time school had opened we had started housekeeping. The multiplied duties of housekeeping, going to school and working at

**SAMUEL GREY BULLOCK**

night were quite a strain but I somehow found the time and energy to become one of the point winners on the track, winning medals in the 440-yard and 880-yard contests. I was also a member of the G. P. O. basketball team. In 1911 I was transferred to day work, which forced me to lose one year at school. The following year, by accepting a position as laborer at a reduced salary, I was able to get night work again and proceed with my dental course. My hours were now from 9 at night to 5:30 in the morning and the work was heavy. It required almost superhuman effort to stick to it until graduation, June, 1913."

We have in this simple narrative the secret of his success and a prophecy of his future. On completing his course, he began practice in Washington and at the same time continued to hold the position which he had held during the last year in college. That he came through such a strain strong and fit without any impairment of health shows his vitality and indicates that he has learned the fine art of how to live. He built up a good practice in Washington, but in 1917 decided to try another field. He took the Virginia State Board examination in that year and was one of only two colored men to pass. He located in Danville, where he has since resided and where he has entered heartily into the local and business life of the city.

Since his high school days he has been active in school and college athletics. While in high school he was a member of the football team and a member of the cadets, reaching the position of Senior First Lieutenant in his graduating year. During his first year at Howard he was captain of the class football team and was also a member of the track team and the basketball team.

On coming to Danville he found no athletics worthy of the name among the young people of the race. He organized basketball teams and taught them the game, supplying the equipment at his own expense.

The Pittsburgh Courier (March, 1919) said: "Dr. S. G. Bullock is a 'sport' of the first magnitude, a lover of clean athletics and a genuine gentleman. Dr. Bullock went down



into his 'jeans', equipped a team, trained them, went to Lynchburg, arranged a game and gave the Seminary girls a guarantee, with no hope of making his money back."

Two boy teams and two girl teams were organized. Experienced players speak in the highest terms of their work. Best of all, an interest in clean, wholesome athletics has been awakened in Danville. Dr. Bullock is President of the Forum Club of Danville, Secretary of the Board of Directors of the Danville Savings Bank, and a member of the Executive Board of the Providence Hospital.

He has prospered since coming to Danville and has considerable local investments. He owns and occupies a handsome building costing \$16,000.00 on N. Ridge Street.

From his observation, Dr. Bullock is of the opinion that ignorance is the great bar to progress and believes that the thing most needed by both races is the right sort of education.

In 1918 Dr. Bullock obtained absolute divorce from his wife.

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## LEVI CROMWELL BROWN

The President of the Mutual Savings Bank of Portsmouth, Mr. Levi Cromwell Brown, is one of a group of young men at Portsmouth and Norfolk who have had the foresight and the courage to do some pioneer work along financial lines.

The old idea of banking as good for the banker only has long been exploded. The banker who helps the business man, and teaches him better methods, and especially the banker who encourages the people in the habit of saving, is a benefactor, no matter how much he may profit by it himself. This is the spirit in which Mr. Brown and his associates are doing their work. They have not sought to attract accounts away from other bankers. Rather, they have induced people who never before kept a bank account to put aside some money regularly and have in this

way built up business for themselves as well as for their customers.

Mr. Brown is a native of Portsmouth, where he was born March 12, 1883. His father, William J. Brown, passed away when the boy was only nine years old. His mother, who, before her marriage, was Miss Rachel Wilkins, was ambitious for her children and not only encouraged them to go to school but prayed earnestly for their success in life, in their presence. Mr. Brown frankly admits that these ideas and ambitions of his mother for him have been potent factor in shaping his life. His paternal grandparents were Samuel and Grace Brown, and the maternal grandparents, George and Harriet Wilkins.

He attended the local public schools until such time as he felt he must help support the family. He then secured a place as messenger with the Merchants & Farmers' Bank, where he remained for several years. After that he got into the postal service and for ten years was a letter carrier. His work at the bank had brought him into contact with forceful and successful men, and he looks upon this as one of the best influences that came into his life.

Finding that the postal service was a mere rut, with little future to it for him, he planned to get out of it as soon as possible. In 1916, he associated himself with some other young men and was the moving spirit in the organization of the Mutual Savings Bank. For a time he was its Vice President, but the following year was elected President, which position he has since held.

Mr. Brown early realized that he must master not only the details of his business, but the underlying principles as well. Accordingly, he has kept up with the trade magazines and has found the business literature issued by the Alexander Hamilton Institute especially helpful.

In politics he is a Republican, though he has little time for attention to political affairs. He is an active and influential member of the A. M. E. Church, of which he is a steward. Among the secret orders he is identified with the Masons and Pythians. He is also a member of the

Inter-racial Committee and Chairman of Community Service, Portsmouth, Va.

Mr. Brown's vision includes more than merely a local bank. In fact, he has been instrumental in organizing at least half a dozen banks and is constantly training young men who are then in a position to go out and take charge of these other institutions.

He is Vice President of the Tidewater Bank & Trust Company, of Norfolk; director of the Albemarle Bank, recently organized at Elizabeth City, and among other positions of honor and trust which he holds may be mentioned the fact that he is chairman of the executive committee of the Old Dominion Bankers' Association, Treasurer of the Standard Building and Loan Association, President of the Portsmouth Co-operative and Investment Corporation, Treasurer of the Norfolk Holding Corporation, Director of the Attucks Twin City Amusement Company, a member of the board of the Bankers' Fire Insurance Company, and Director of the Commercial Bank and Trust Co.

Notwithstanding all these activities, Mr. Brown works in the open, is easy of approach and seems to find time for everything and has a kind word for everybody.

The growth of the Portsmouth Bank in the four years since its organization has been remarkable. Beginning with the organization only, a line of 8,000 depositors has been built up, to say nothing of the 7,500 members of the Christmas Savings Department.

Mr. Brown is more than a business man. He is a missionary, preaching to his people the gospel of work, thrift, and economy, and is happy in his work.

On June 15, 1905, Mr. Brown was married to Miss Luda Mason, of Seaboard, N. C. She was educated at St. Paul's Normal and Industrial Institute at Lawrenceville, Va., and taught school for two years prior to her marriage. They have two children, Fanny May and Lula Brown.

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## GEORGE W. GOODE

No matter whether measured by the standard of the educator, the business man, or the preacher, Rev. George Washington Goode, of Danville, is a man among men. Though born in slavery on March 14, 1865, the date of his birth was so near the conclusion of the slavery period which came with the downfall of the Confederacy less than a month later that he felt none of the baleful influence of that institution. In fact, his life is so nearly contemporary with the freedom of the race that it may be taken as an illustration of what one generation of freedom has meant.

Dr. Goode's father, Henderson Goode, still living (1920), is a son of Benjamin and Sylvia Goode. His mother was, before her marriage, Miss Julia Carter. Dr. Goode is a native of Patrick County. While still a child, the family moved to Smythe County, and the boy worked and laid the foundation of his education at Marion. These early years on the farm and in the mines gave him physical strength and endurance which have enabled him to stand well the strain of many years of hard work. He gave his heart to God when about twenty years of age. At that time he was teaching in the public schools. In 1887 he was licensed to preach by the First Baptist Church of Marion and two years later was ordained to the full work of the Gospel ministry by the same church. For his higher literary and theological training he went to Richmond Institute, now Virginia Union University, and won from that institution the B. D. degree in 1895. It was necessary for him to make his own way at college. He had planned to go to Tennessee to school, but was induced by Dr. Morris to turn his face toward Richmond.

His first pastorate was at Rich Hill in Pulaski County, where he preached one year. While in college he preached for three years at West Point and at Church View in Middlesex County. A new house of worship was built at West Point. In 1896 he accepted the call of Calvary Church at Danville and for nearly a quarter of a century had gone

**GEORGE WASHINGTON GOODE**

in and out before that congregation. Dr. Goode has been more than a pulpiteer, more than a pastor. He has stood as a conservative influence between the races. It was not unnatural that such a man should find his way into educational work. Accordingly when the Pittsylvania Industrial Normal and Collegiate Institute was established under the auspices of the Baptists of that section, it was fitting that he should be asked to start the work off. That was in 1903 and the patrons of the school have not yet been willing to release him from his place of leadership. An enrollment of more than a hundred has been built up and much work accomplished. His life and his work have inspired confidence, with the result that many organizations, business, religious and racial, have sought his influence and honored him with official positions. He is Secretary of the Cherry Stone Baptist Association and was for seven years Moderator of the Baptist General Association of Virginia. He is now Treasurer of the General Association and Treasurer of the State B. Y. P. U. and member of the Executive Board of the State Sunday School Convention. He is also a member of the Baptist Educational Board and on the Foreign Mission Committee of the Lott Carey Association. In addition to these he is President of Providence Hospital Association and Chairman of the Board of Managers of the Hospital Association, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Savings Bank, and Chairman of the Executive Committee of the bank; State member of the Interracial Committee, and one of the Collaborateurs of the war history. Among the secret orders, he is identified with the Masons.

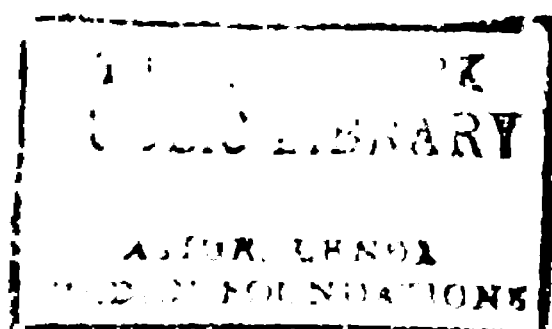
His philosophy of life is simple but fundamental: "The consecration of life to Christ, the realization of the value of time and the proper use of money." He credits his father and mother with inspiring him with high ideals which have been the greatest factors in his life.

On June 24, 1896, Dr. Goode was happily married to Miss Mary L. Gaines, an accomplished teacher of Richmond, who has entered heartily into all his plans. He has



**DAVID GILBERT JACOX**





beginning and is widely known as an able educator. His next teaching was at West Norfolk, where he taught for twelve years. Beginning with a one-room school, he was steadily advanced as the character of his work became recognized, until he became principal of the John T. West County School with a teaching force of fourteen. In 1911, this was by annexation made a city school and was reorganized as a regular State high school with elementary work and forty-six teachers. He is now (1920) supervising principal of the Booker T. Washington High School of Norfolk. His position in the profession may be inferred from the fact that he is President of the Colored Teachers' Association, Business Manager of the Tidewater Teacher, a quarterly paper issued as the organ of the teachers in that section. He is also a member of the executive board of the National Association of Teachers of the Colored Schools of America and is a member of the Board of Trustees of Smallwood-Corey Institute at Claremont, Va.

Professor Jacox is more than a teacher. He is a leader of constructive ability, who not only seeks to train the children who come into his schools in the ordinary ways, but to lead them and those under his influence among parents and teachers into lives of larger service to the community. Accordingly, he has been active in such business enterprises as his time would permit. He helped organize the Norfolk Building and Loan Association and the Virginia Beneficial Insurance Company. He also organized and carried on successfully a land and store company in West Norfolk while teaching in that section.

From boyhood he has been identified with the Baptist Church and is a regularly ordained minister of that denomination, though he has never gone into the active pastorate. As a preacher, however, he has had the privilege of supplying some of the largest and best churches in Virginia and adjacent States. He was for twelve years President of the State B. Y. P. U. and is now Corresponding Secretary of the Virginia Baptist State Sunday School Convention (Inc.). He seems equally at home in the schoolroom or in the pulpit

and is much in demand as a public speaker on notable occasions.

Professor Jacox is prominent in the Grand Lodge of the Virginia Masons. He is also a member of the Pythians and is identified with the Community Service Committee appointed by the City Council of Norfolk.

While in school he was interested in athletics and was skilled in boxing, running and wrestling. In his reading he is fond of books of travel, psychology, and of Shakespeare.

On Aug. 9, 1900, Prof. Jacox was married to Miss Ida N. Deans, of West Norfolk. They have one child, Eloise Juanita Jacox now (1920) a student at Howard University, Washington, D. C.

Prof. Jacox has had a splendid opportunity to study conditions and believes that the progress of the race depends on "better schools and longer terms in all the rural schools; on more sympathetic and co-operative feeling between the races, through conferences and general leagues; on educational campaigns led by the best people of both races, so that white people may know of the race as it is today and stop trying to think of them as our parents were fifty years ago."

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## CHASTEEN MURRAY

Rev. Chasteen Murray, pastor of the Loyal Street Baptist Church, of Danville, is a native of Knoph, in Caroline County, Virginia, where he was born Sept. 16, 1887. He is a brilliant young man who had the wisdom to take time enough to prepare himself for his work as a minister before entering upon the active pastorate. His father, Fountain Murray, was a farmer and the boy himself grew up on the farm in Caroline County, where he attended the local public schools. His mother, before her marriage, was Cassanda Mont. After completing his work at the public schools, Mr. Murray went to the Virginia Seminary and College at Lynchburg, from which institution he has the A. B. and B. D. degrees. He was graduated in 1919.

**CHASTEEN MURRAY**

While in college, he was active in athletics. Mr. Murray, less fortunate than some other young men, was born of poor parents, therefore he had to work his own way through college. He made his tuition during his vacation months. He entered college in 1910. His first vacation was spent running a steam drill for the New York Central Railroad Company on the Hudson River above Fishkill Landing. In 1911 his vacation was spent working at the home of Mr. John D. Rockefeller at Tarrytown, N. Y. In 1912 he was employed, during vacation period, as missionary for the Virginia Baptist State Convention. In 1915 he was called to his first pastoral charge, the Dearington Hill Baptist Church, Lynchburg, Va., which he served four years. He came into the work of the church when twenty-six years of age and was licensed by the St. John's Baptist Church at Knoph, Va. He was ordained by the Dearington Hill Baptist Church, Lynchburg, in 1913. While pastoring at Lynchburg he accepted the call of the Mt. Evergreen Church at Evington, Va. Rev. Mr. Murray, before giving up the pastorate of Dearington Hill Baptist Church added to the membership more than 150 members. Improvements were made amounting to more than \$1500. Rev. Murray, notwithstanding he served the Mt. Evergreen Church only a little more than one year, added to its membership more than seventy-five members and made improvements amounting to \$1500.

He went to his third pastorate in 1919, which was the Washington Street Baptist Church, Bedford City. He served this church one year, during which time eighty members were added to the church and an improvement to the amount of \$2,500 made. In 1920 he was called to the Loyal Street Baptist Church, Danville. In six months after accepting this church, eighty-five new members were added and plans were passed upon and put in operation for the erection of an edifice, which will cost approximately \$100,000. Dr. Murray is identified with the Pythians, the Masons, the Golden Rule Association and the True Reformers.

When asked how the best interests of the race are to be promoted, he said, "First, by a development of racial independence; second, better educational opportunities; third, equal opportunities in the economic and political life of this nation; fourth, elimination of propaganda which is perpetrated upon the race through the press and serves as a menace to its progress."

On December 21, 1919, Dr. Murray was happily married to Miss Sadie Janeiva Reynolds, a daughter of James and Sarah Reynolds of Bigland, Va. Mrs. Murray was educated at Virginia Seminary and College of Lynchburg. She was before marriage an accomplished teacher.

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## ADOLPHUS HUMBLER

The story of a man like Adolphus Humbler must deal almost entirely with what the man himself has done rather than with his ancestry. While he looks much younger, Mr. Humbler was born in 1847 and was thus a boy seventeen years of age at the outbreak of the war and a grown young man at the time of the surrender.

He was born at Lynchburg, where the whole of his life has been spent. The fact that he has been able to accumulate a fortune and lead a life of large usefulness among the friends who understand his ability and know his character best, is the greatest compliment which could be paid him.

Mr. Humbler was married October 15, 1870, to Miss Rosa Swift, of Goochland, C. H., Va. Of the five children born to them, the following are living: Alphonso, Willie, Clifton and Geneva.

Mr. Humbler is well and favorably known in and around Lynchburg as a capable and conservative business man, whose knowledge of values is based on long experience and whose judgment is frequently sought by investors. He was for thirty-six years a merchant at Jackstown, near Lynchburg, owned and operated a toll road from Lynch-

burg to Rustburg, the county site of Campbell County, and has for a long time dealt in stocks, bonds and all classes of realty investments.

Coming of school age at a time when it was illegal to teach a colored person to read or write, of course, he did not have any schooling. Later, however, he contrived to provide himself with enough to enable him to do a successful business. This, added to his great fund of common sense, has made him successful where many a man of much more liberal education has failed.

In recent years the demand on the part of religious and educational institutions has been for business men who are willing to devote their time and money to religious and educational work. There have been all too few men who are willing to turn aside from financial rewards and give to these institutions the sort of business direction which they so much need. Mr. Humbles, fortunately, belongs to the small class who are willing to make the sacrifice. He has, since 1904, been Treasurer of the Virginia State Baptist Convention and is also Treasurer of the Virginia Theological Seminary and College at Lynchburg, in which capacity he has served for eight years. He is a well-known figure in the institution and perhaps there are few, if any other, laymen in the State more widely known than is Mr. Humbles. He has been a member of the church for forty years and a deacon for thirty-eight years. In matters of real estate, building, investment, finances, etc., the brethren are always willing to follow his judgment. In politics he is a Republican and was for thirteen years Chairman of the Campbell County Executive Committee.

Mr. Humbles is a quiet, unassuming man in appearance and impresses one as a man who believes in character rather than noise. While he does not look like a strong man physically, yet he is one who is ever ready to do his part of any worthy undertaking.

Virginia Baptists owe Mr. Humbles a debt of gratitude and it is fitting that he should be identified with the Bap-







A. Humboldt



tist institution of learning where he may touch the lives of those who are later to be leaders of the race.

It is gratifying to know that in his own business he has been so successful. He is known as the wealthiest colored man in the State of Virginia. His various holdings are estimated to be worth at least \$300,000.

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## WILLIAM BENJAMIN ANDERSON

Dr. William Benjamin Anderson, a leading dentist of Portsmouth, was born there on June 8, 1882. His story is one of talent and hard struggle with adverse circumstances. By dint of industry, patience and perseverance he rose to success in his chosen profession. Through this he has also reached a commanding position in the business life of his people.

His father, William Benjamin Anderson, Sr., was a hard-working stevedore. His mother, who, before her marriage, was Miss Margaret Council, was especially ambitious for her boy and he confesses that he owes much to her training.

Young Anderson attended the Portsmouth public school and went from there to Virginia Union University, where he pursued the scientific course, winning the B. S. degree in 1908. Desiring the best training possible for his professional work, he matriculated at Howard University for his course in dentistry and gained his D. D. S. degree in 1911.

On completion of his course at Howard, he passed the State Board and began practice in Baltimore, where he remained for one year. In 1912 he returned to his old home town and was successful from the first. He maintains attractive dental parlors and operating rooms on Green Street.

In addition to his professional work, Dr. Anderson is a man of fine executive ability and as his growing practice brought in larger means, he began to invest in various

local enterprises of merit. His financial and executive abilities have been recognized by his associates and is evidenced by the fact that he is now Vice President of the Community Savings Bank, stockholder in the Tidewater Bank and Trust Company, Secretary of the Virginia Drug Corporation, stockholder in the Twin City Amusement Corporation and stockholder in the Tidewater Building Association.

Dr. Anderson is an active member of the Baptist Church and is President of Men's League of the Zion Baptist Church. He takes a deep interest in a number of benevolent organizations and is President of the board of directors of the Miller Day Nursery. He is identified with the Skull and Bones Club of Portsmouth and is ex-Treasurer of the Reindeer order. Among the purely professional organizations, he belongs to the Old Dominion Dental Association, the National Medical Society and the Interstate Dental Association.

He is a thoughtful and devout man and believes that the best interests of the race are to be promoted by more education and more prayer.

On Sept. 9, 1918, Dr. Anderson was united in matrimony to Miss Goldie Drew, a daughter of Rebecca Drew of Portsmouth. They have one daughter, Maye T. Anderson.

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## BOOKER LAWRENCE JORDAN

Whoever has studied the development of American business institutions, has been compelled to recognize in many of them the dominating influence of the country boy and the self-made man. The subject of this biography, Mr. Booker Lawrence Jordan, belongs to that class. He is a native of Louisa County, where he was born Aug. 14, 1874. His father, Robert A. Jordan, was a farmer and a merchant. He passed away before our subject was quite six years of age. His mother, before her marriage, was Miss Texanna Johnson.

.Young Jordan attended the public school at Louisa one





Very truly yours,  
Booker L. Jordan.





term. The year following the death of his father, and before he was seven, the family moved to Richmond. Here there was more work to be done and better opportunities for an education. For nearly forty years he has resided at Richmond and has made for himself a name in the financial and commercial life of the race second to none in the State. There have been many obstacles and difficulties in the way, but instead of allowing them to discourage or defeat him, he has used them like rounds on a ladder to mount to higher and better things. From boyhood he was influenced by his mother's teaching in religion and uprightness, and through the years of struggle and of prosperity has remained loyal to the church and is a teacher in the Sunday School of the Baptist Church of which he is a member.

After the family moved to Richmond, he entered the public school but along with the other older children of the family had to go to work. This is usually the signal for a boy to abandon his books, but not so with young Jordan. He went to night school and studied with the younger children from their books at home.

Increasing knowledge brought a larger outlook on life and the boy determined to fit himself for a business career. A unique and characteristic trait of Mr. Jordan has been this: that when he has been confronted by a situation requiring special skill or training, he has not hired an expert, but has, while carrying on his other work, equipped himself for the task. This policy has taken him into the fields of accountancy, law, insurance, and architecture. As a result, he is a business man of unusual versatility.

In 1894 he matriculated at the Buffalo (N. Y.) Business College for the full commercial course and was graduated from that institution in 1897. Here he became interested in commercial law, and in 1911 completed a full law course with the American Correspondence School of Law of Chicago. Prior to this he had, in 1909, completed an accountant's course on a hundred per cent average.

His rise in the business world cannot be told better than in his own language. He says:

"Beginning as an agent for the Southern Aid Society of Virginia, Inc., I worked my way up to the position of Secretary-Manager. This was not accomplished by any easy-going or royal road to the goal, or by sudden flights, but by persistent efforts and hard struggles, making it round by round, and often when others slept I made my greatest flights, through most earnest efforts, upwards in the night.

"This rise from agent to Secretary-Manager of the Southern Aid Society represents twenty-odd years of conscientious and zealous service. During these many years, I had experiences in other businesses, such as grocery and shoe business, wood and coal yard, having been the general manager of a large mercantile business and the director and auditor of the Capital Shoe and Supply Company's shoe store and the Young Men's Business Association's coal and wood business.

"Beginning as an agent and working nine years at this position with signal success, I quit the insurance business to accept the position of general manager of the mercantile department of the True Reformers, which had just secured a charter for the operation of a chain of stores in many cities. I systematized the business and opened six stores in the following cities: Richmond, Portsmouth, Manchester, Roanoke, Salem, Washington, D. C. Managing this business successfully for two years and four months, and leaving it in a flourishing condition at the time of retiring from it on account of my health, I returned to the insurance business, beginning as a traveling superintendent or inspector, which position I filled with credit to myself and much profit to the cause.

"My next promotion came in about four years, when I was elected Assistant Secretary-Manager and Auditor, which position I held until Aug. 12, 1918, on which date I was elected Secretary-Manager.

"When I began as agent, the corporation was not worth \$500.00. It had only one small rented office—Richmond, Va. It bought fuel in 25-cent lots. On many occasions, the office force, consisting of Secretary-Manager and one clerk, had to wait for me to come in with my final report for the week before they could pay themselves their weekly salary. The corporation now owns office buildings in all of the principal cities in the State of Virginia and stores from one to three carloads of coal in the basement of each office building every summer. Its employees number nearly 1000. At this date its net assets are over \$400,000, with an annual business approaching \$1,000,000."

On Dec. 12, 1899, Mr. Jordan was married to Miss Mollie Blanche Johnson, a daughter of Edward and Susan Johnson of Louisa, Va.

They have two children, Daisy B. (Mrs. Foy) and Miss Marion A. Jordan.

Mr. Jordan's reading marks him as a man of culture and wide information. It consists of law, the best English and American classics, history, biography, and the current magazines and papers. He is identified with the Negro Business League, State and local, and is a member of the N. A. A. C. P.

When asked how the best interests of the race are to be promoted, he said:

"The Negro as a race group, in the United States, has reached that point in racial progress which, when viewed through their surroundings, suggests the most careful consideration of every problem affecting them before any action thereon is determined upon.

"As the Negro makes progress in education, culture, and in the accumulation of wealth, his economic and social condition will receive greater attention, and efforts to prescribe and limit his sphere will increase.

"The result of such action is reflected in the migration of the Negroes from the South to the North. This is believed to be but a part of the Divine plan.

"The Anglo-Saxon views the Negro as an inferior race group and by nature fitted especially for certain lines of service, and is only to serve him in this capacity. Naturally, the ambition of the Negro for higher things meets

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**JOHN RILEY DUNGEE**

who at one time represented his county in the Virginia Legislature. He was a son of Joseph and Betsy Dungee. Prof. Dungee's mother, before her marriage, was Miss Mary James Custello. On both the maternal and paternal sides there was an intermixture of African, English, and Indian.

Our subject grew up on the farm in King William County, where he remained till he had reached maturity. He attended the local schools established by the Freedmen's Bureau and later went to Hampton Institute, where he completed the normal course. From Hampton he passed to Howard University for the law course, which he completed with the LL. B. degree in 1888.

As a young man, he worked in the summer and went to school in the winter. While at Howard University he worked at local boarding houses for his own board. Early in life there grew up in his mind a desire to serve God and be helpful to his fellow men. He has held firmly to this purpose through the years and has, by means of his educational work, been able to help many a boy and girl to a larger and more beneficial life than would otherwise have been possible.

Prof. Dungee's first work as a teacher was in his native county of King William in 1880. After leaving Hampton and Howard, he again taught in the same county. His next work was in New Jersey, where he taught for two years. After that, he went to West Virginia for one year and was principal of the public school at Roanoke, Va., for ten years. He taught also at Harriman, Tenn., for a year.

In 1911 he came to Norfolk, since which time he has been actively identified with the Norfolk public school system.

In 1890, he began the practice of law at West Point, Va., and on going to Roanoke the following year gave some attention to law practice there, but has in the main devoted himself to his educational work. Though by no means an old man, he has lived to see many of the boys and girls he first taught grow up to occupy places of influence and usefulness in their respective communities.

He has taken no active part in politics, nor is he identified with the secret orders. He has for years been an active and prominent member of the Presbyterian Church, of which he is an elder and superintendent of the Sunday School.

In his reading, Prof. Dungee gives first place to religious works, history, books on education, civics, and sociology. He has, from time to time during the years, written a number of poems which have attracted attention and has published one book of poetry entitled "Random Rhymes."

On August 27, 1896, Prof. Dungee was happily married to Miss Flossie Belle Wingfield, a daughter of Jesse and Sallie Wingfield, of Martinsville, Va. Of the eight children born to them, the following are living: John Riley, II., Roger Benton, Doris, Helma, and Carolyn Dungee.

When asked how, in his estimation, the best interests of the race are to be promoted, Prof. Dungee said: "Let the race be faithful to God."

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## ROBERT JUNIUS BROWN

Dr. Robert Junius Brown, a leading dentist of Norfolk, is a native of Norfolk County, where he was born on Nov. 7, 1883. His father, Robert Junius Brown, Sr., married, in 1881, Miss Addie Lee Parker, who was a native of Warrenton, Va. To this union were born four children, of whom our subject, Robert Junius, Jr., was the oldest.

At seven years of age, young Brown entered St. Joseph's Catholic School at Norfolk. After laying here the foundation of his education, he went to Norfolk Mission College, now the Norfolk High School, where he pursued his studies for several terms. Being under the necessity of making his own way in school, he worked at hotels and summer resorts.

From Norfolk he went to the A. & M. College at Normal, Ala., and in 1903 completed a course in blacksmithing and painting. The following term he took charge of the paint-



**ROBERT JUNIUS BROWN**

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ing department on a salary which was used for the next year's tuition. He completed the normal course in 1906. From Alabama, he went to New York and studied one year preparatory to entering Meharry Dental School, where he matriculated in the fall of 1907.

His way at Meharry was not easy. Lack of means made it necessary for him to work not only during vacations, but after school during the term. He was hopeful and ambitious, however, and completed the course with the D. D. S. degree in 1911.

On completion of his course, he went to work on the rail road to provide himself with funds to purchase the supplies and equipment necessary to begin the practice. By Jan. 1, 1912, he was ready to begin the practice, and opened an office at Newnan, Ga. From Newnan he went to Georgetown, S. C., which, after a trial of two years proved less fruitful than the first. By that time he was able to see the possibilities of his home town, and located at Norfolk, with the result that he has built up a splendid practice.

He says his inspiration for a higher education came from his mother, who desired her son to be a helper to his race. When he was fourteen years of age he was working in a private family. With the approach of school time, he told the lady of his desire to go to school. She said, "You need not go to school, you will never be a lawyer, nor a doctor." This very denial made the boy resolve to make his life count for his race.

Dr. Brown has traveled extensively in this country and in Canada. His reading takes a wide range, and includes the Bible, Hugo, Dunbar, Shakespeare, with ancient and modern history.

Dr. Brown has not only been successful in his practice but is also prominent in business circles. He is a member of the board of directors of the Brown Savings Bank, the Tidewater Bank and Trust Co., and the Interstate Dental Co. of Norfolk. He is a member of the National Medical Asso., the Interstate Dental Asso., and the Old Dominion Dental Asso. He belongs to the Masons, Pythians, and other local

orders. In politics he is a Republican and is a member of the A. M. E. Church.

On Dec. 26, 1917, Dr. Brown was happily married to Miss Pearl Ann Jenkins, daughter of Jedadiah D. and Mary Jenkins of Atlanta, Ga. Mrs. Brown was educated at Clark

**ALFRED JAIRUS NOTTINGHAM**

active in the work of the church at an early age, having been converted when about fifteen.

Upon completion of the work at Hampton he taught in Nansemond County for one year, beginning in 1888. Later he taught in his native county of Northampton for several years. After reaching mature manhood, he felt called to the ministry and was licensed to preach in 1895. The following year he joined the Conference under the late Bishop W. J. Gaines. Since that time he has devoted practically his whole time to the work of the ministry, having filled the following appointments: Norfolk County three years, Oceana two years, and St. James, Berkley, five years. At each of these places he built a parsonage. He served Richmond Station two years, Roanoke three years, Hampton five years, Franktown three years, and John Brown Memorial Station, at Norfolk, two years. He went to his present work in 1921. He is a prominent figure at the Annual Conferences and has for eight years served the Virginia Conference in official capacities as either Recording Secretary or Chief Secretary, and is now Treasurer of the Conference. In May, 1921, he was elected Pres. of the Norfolk Preachers' Conference.

When a younger man, he was more or less active in politics, but now gives very little attention to such affairs.

Among the secret orders Rev. Nottingham belongs to the Masons and Odd Fellows. He has attended the last three General Conferences of his denomination.

Dr. Nottingham is a fluent speaker, a careful pastor, and a capable executive. He knows how to organize his work and how to get results out of his congregations. He invariably comes up to Conference with a splendid report. He is affable and cordial and has the appearance of being considerably younger than his years. During the war he participated effectively in all the campaigns and drives as they proceeded.

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## CLAUDE L. ALEXANDER

That happy interchange and transfer of preachers, through the itinerancy of the Methodist Church, has brought into Virginia some notable characters from the other States of the South. One of the bright lights of the A. M. E. Zion connection comes to the State from Alabama. He is the Rev. Claude Livingstone Alexander, D. D., now (1920) stationed at Petersburg.

Dr. Alexander was born at Tuskegee, Ala., Oct. 25, 1870. His parents were Lewis and Julia Ann Alexander. Growing up in Macon County, young Alexander first attended the local grammar schools, after which he attended Tuskegee Institute. In this day of high wages, it is not easy to realize how a farmer boy made his way in college in the eighties. For one thing, young Alexander chopped wood at fifty cents a cord and applied the proceeds to his expenses at Tuskegee. Fortunately, the robust physique developed during his early years on the farm stood well the strain of such hard work coupled with his work in the school. At Tuskegee he learned the tailor's trade and was able to make that of assistance in furthering his career. Altogether he spent five years at Tuskegee Institute, where he pursued the normal and theological courses. He studied two years at Gammon Theological Seminary, Atlanta. Livingstone College, at Salisbury, conferred on him the D. D. degree, and he also did special theological work under the direction of the Boston Seminary.

On February 15, 1890, Dr. Alexander was married to Miss Mary C. Howard, of Alabama. They have had nine children, of whom the following are living: Benjamin, Pearl, Ruth, Bernice H., Gladys, Annie, and Erline E. Alexander. Edgar, a splendid young man of good ability, died in the service in France. Two of his daughters are married: Mrs. Bernice H. Young, Cleveland, Ohio, and Mrs. Eunice E. Jackson, Pittsburgh, Pa.

The same year of his marriage, Dr. Alexander began preaching and joined the Conference in 1891 at Montgom-

ery, Ala., under Bishop T. H. Lomax. He was ordained Elder at Talladega in 1893. From the very beginning, he was successful as a minister. His first appointment was to a mission at Kinhaw, Ala., where he found only two members. Under his administration the work grew in a year to sixty-three members, land was bought, and a house of worship erected and paid for. His next appointment was to Tallassee, which he served three years, remodeling the church and doubling its membership. From Tallassee he went to Chehaw circuit for one year and remodeled three houses of worship during that time, and taught the public school at Chehaw. His next appointment was the Union Springs Station, which he served for three years. Here he also taught in the school for two years and erected a new parsonage. He then went to Opelika for three years, remodeled the church and made it larger to accommodate the audience that overran the former edifice, and doubled the membership. At the end of his pastorate there he was transferred to North Carolina and appointed to the Wilson Station, which he served two years, built a parsonage, paid the church out of debt, added 135 members and purchased a new organ. His next success was at Goldsboro, where in three years he completed a splendid brick church and brought the congregation into the city, which had a large growth in membership.

At this time, conditions at Knoxville, Tenn., demanded the attention of a man of unusual ability, so Dr. Alexander was again transferred and took charge of that Station for a year, where a new brick church was erected and the membership greatly strengthened and general claims doubled. At Knoxville he was the first Negro pastor to raise \$1,000.00 at a single offering. From Knoxville he went to Warner Temple, at Memphis, for four years, where a new church was purchased from the Presbyterians at corner of William and Porter Streets, and increased membership and general claims over three hundred per cent. From Memphis he went to Mississippi for another four years, paid the church debt, doubled the membership and bought







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an organ. After this, he was sent to Payne Chapel Station at Little Rock, Ark., where, during a pastorate of three years he completed the brick church building. This church became the place of every public gathering—where the Governor of the State, the Superintendent of Education and Commissioner of Labor were frequent visitors and made many addresses.

In 1916, Dr. Alexander was transferred to Petersburg, Va., where the church building has been remodeled at a cost of \$8,000.00, the parsonage repaired at an expense of \$600.00, and a pipe organ installed at a cost of \$5,000.00. The membership has increased from 500 to 1280 and Conference claims have advanced from \$285.00 to \$1,400. Dr. Alexander was made Presiding Elder and was on the district for a year and a half, to carry out the unexpired term of the late J. N. Cooper, D. D., though he much preferred the pastorate.

Dr. Alexander is a prominent figure at all the conferences and has attended all the General Conferences since 1900. Among the secret orders he stands high in the Masons, Pythians, Elks, Woodmen, and Mosaic Templars of America, being State Grand Master of the latter organization.

In connection with his pastoral work he has held many positions of trust, was Treas. of the Dinwiddie Normal School for four years, and is now first vice-president of the Trustee Board.

He has given liberally to the leading charities and has provided his children with the means for securing liberal education.

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## SAMUEL ROSS WILSON

There is rapidly coming to the front a splendid group of young men at Norfolk, who in a few years must dominate the professional life of the Negroes in that prosperous city. Among these, as one who has already reached a distinctive place, must be mentioned Dr. Samuel Ross Wilson, who is

**SAMUEL ROSS WILSON**

a native of Keysville, in Charlotte County, where he was born September 28, 1877. His father, Robert M. Wilson, who is now living (1920), was a farmer and a carpenter. Young Wilson was brought up on the farm, and learned the trades of carpenter and cooper. His paternal grandparents were John Wilson, who died at the age of eighty-three, and Ellen Wilson, who died at the age of seventy-four. Dr. Wilson's mother, before her marriage, was Miss Frances Dean, who is now living. Her parents were Isaac Dean, who reached eighty years, and Susan Dean, who lived to be seventy-two.

Young Wilson laid the foundation of his education in the public schools of his native county, from which he passed to the V. N. and C. I. at Petersburg for his normal course. Following this he did his college work at Fisk University, Nashville, and when ready for the medical course matriculated at Leonard Medical College of Shaw University, where he won his M. D. degree in 1907. Upon completion of the course, he passed the State Board and practiced in his home town of Keysville for a few months, after which he moved to Farmville and practiced there for three years. Seeking a larger field, he went to Danville and remained there for nine years. In 1917 he made still another move and located in Norfolk, where he has since resided and where he is steadily building up a good general practice. He is identified with the Tidewater, the Old Dominion, and the National Medical organizations and is Secretary of the Physicians' Club of Norfolk.

Among the secret orders he affiliates with the Masons, Pythians, Elks, True Reformers, Knights and Daughters of Tabor, and the Courts of Calanthe. He is medical examiner for some of these and also for the North Carolina Mutual Insurance Company. While in school he played on the baseball and football teams.

On April 19, 1911, Dr. Wilson was married to Miss Jennie Scott, of Amelia County. She was educated at Ingleside Seminary and after her graduation there was employed as a

teacher in the same institution. They have four children: Pearl, Vivian, Samuel Ross, Jr., and Clarence Wilson.

Dr. Wilson enters heartily into the business, professional, and social life of the city. He believes that the great need of the race today is the right sort of education. He is not active in politics, but is a Republican. He devotes much talent to service in the Baptist denomination, being a member of the choir and a teacher in the Sunday School of his local church.

Dr. Wilson is one of the Assistant Surgeons at the Tidewater Hospital.

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## WILLIAM EDWARD BAILEY

Dr. William Edward Bailey, A. B., M. D., a rising young physician and surgeon of Norfolk, is well established in a growing general practice although just entering into his forties. He "made haste slowly" by taking in youth the necessary time for sound preparation before entering upon his important work.

Dr. Bailey comes from the Eastern Shore of Virginia, having been born in Accomac County, Oct. 8, 1880. His father, William Henry Bailey, was a farmer, and young Bailey grew up on the home farm and attended the local public schools. His mother, before her marriage, was Miss Frances Weeks.

As a young fellow, and in order to help along with his college expenses, Dr. Bailey did hotel, railroad, and steamboat work from time to time.

For his college work he went to that well known institution at Washington, D. C., Howard University, where he won the A. B. degree in 1904. When ready for the medical course he matriculated at Leonard Medical College, Raleigh, N. C., graduating in 1912 with the M. D. degree.

From early boyhood he had been ambitious and was prompted by a desire to be of service in the world and to make life count among his people, in which ideals he was helped and greatly inspired by an older sister.

**WILLIAM EDWARD BAILEY**



Upon completion of the course at Leonard, he located at Norfolk in 1913 and began the practice of his profession. In 1919 and 1920 he did special work at the Freedmen's Hospital at Washington, D. C.

Dr. Bailey is a Republican in politics, but has taken no active part in political affairs. He is a member of the Baptist denomination and belongs to the Masons. Of course he is fully identified with the professional organizations, the local Physicians' Club, the Tidewater, Old Dominion and National Medical Societies.

Dr. Bailey volunteered for service in the war and was commissioned First Lieutenant of the Medical Reserve Corps. He has taken considerable interest in out-door sports and is very fond of tennis, football, fishing and motoring.

The peculiarly intimate relations into which he is brought with his people as a physician have enabled Dr. Bailey to make observations of conditions, and he is of the opinion that the thing most needed by the race, as a whole, is that fundamentally informative sort of instruction which makes for sturdy health, straight thinking, and right living.

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## JOHN MANUEL GANDY

The story of Dr. John Manuel Gandy, President of Virginia Normal and Industrial Institute at Petersburg, and President of the National Association of Teachers in Colored Schools, is a record of humble beginnings, steady perseverance, and a life of large usefulness.

He is a native of Mississippi, having been born at Starksville, Oct. 31, 1870. His father, Horace Gandy, was a farmer, and our subject spent his boyhood days on the farm. His paternal grandparents were Ed Gandy, a slaveholder of Scotch-Irish extraction, and Mary Gandy, who was of unmixed African descent. Dr. Gandy's mother, before her marriage was Miss Mary Ann Goodon, a daugh-

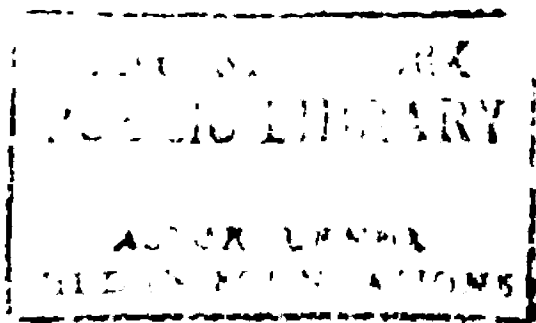


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1. *Chlorophyll a* and *Chlorophyll b* were determined by the method of Arar and Collins (1971) using a Shimadzu 1601 UV-Visible Spectrophotometer.

John M. Gandy



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ter of Julia Randall, through whom he inherits a strain of Indian blood.

Young Gandy attended the local schools and early aspired to a college education. Of this period he says, "My parents were poor and were not able to educate their children. I had an ambition to go to college. The people of the church to which I belonged contributed the money which enabled me to enter Jackson College. From that time on I earned, during the summer, all the money I spent except what was contributed by Northern friends." He attended Jackson College three years, from which he passed to Oberlin Academy in Ohio, where he studied for two years. For his college work he went to Fisk University, Nashville, Tenn., where he was graduated with the A. B. degree in 1898. Three years later the degree of A. M. was conferred on him by the same institution, and in 1920 the honorary degree of Doctor of Pedagogy was given him by Morgan College. He has done post-graduate work at Columbia University. As early as 1889, he began teaching in the rural schools of Mississippi and has for more than thirty years been actively engaged in educational work. Immediately after his graduation from Fisk, he was elected to the chair of Latin and Greek at the Virginia Normal and Collegiate Institute, a State institution at Petersburg. Later the college course was abandoned by act of the Legislature, the name of the institution was changed to Virginia Normal and Industrial Institute, with special emphasis on the Normal and Industrial departments. Professor Gandy was elected to the enlarged department of pedagogy, where for eleven years he devoted himself to teaching teachers, and came to be recognized as one of the most efficient educators of the race. Such in fact was his record, that in 1914 he was made President of the Institute, which has had its most splendid growth under his administration. Beginning with an old farm in the late eighties, there is now a modern plant of twelve permanent buildings on a campus of twenty-six acres, though the school has a total of ninety-three acres. The act creating the school provided an annuity of

twenty thousand dollars, which later dropped as low as fifteen thousand. This year (1920) the school will spend more than a hundred thousand dollars.

Dr. Gandy has surrounded himself with a faculty of more than half a hundred, and the enrollment this year will reach perhaps fifteen hundred, including the summer session.

In revising the courses, provision has been made for high school and academic work, while the Normal Course has been raised to the rank of the Standard Normal Course for such a school. Attention is also given to Agriculture, Domestic Science, and Manual Training. In recent years, no other institution in Virginia has exerted a greater influence over the educational life of the State.

On July 17, 1901, Dr. Gandy was married to Miss Carrie Brown of Franklin, Va. She was a daughter of Charlie and Mattie Brown, and was educated at the Virginia Normal and Collegiate Institute. Of the four children born to them, the following are living: Theodore I., Marion E., and John Manuel Gandy, Jr.

Dr. Gandy has for years been an active member of the Baptist Church. He is Executive Secretary of the Negro Organization Society; a member of the Inter Racial Committee; member of the State Committee of Y. M. C. A.; member Trustee Boards of Virginia Union University, Franklin Normal and Industrial Institute, St. Paul Normal and Industrial Institute; member of State Inter Racial Committee; member Staff of Collaborators Virginia War History Commission; member Staff Virginia School Survey Commission; and President of the National Association of Teachers in Colored Schools.

During the war Dr. Gandy was especially active. He was the first special representative for the organization of the War Camp Community Service, and spent considerable time at different camps. It was a part of his duty to recommend colored workers, and he placed a large majority of the men and women engaged in that line of service.

Looking back over his career, Dr. Gandy is of the opinion that the greatest factors in shaping his life have been the lives of the devoted men and women who taught him, the influence of a World's Student Conference attended at Northfield in 1897, and the influence of his mother.

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## **JULIEN DABNEY JACKSON**

There is a remarkable group of young men engaged in the practice of medicine at Norfolk. As a rule they are men of a high type, intelligent, well equipped and energetic. Most of them are natives of the Old Dominion, though one finds an occasional North Carolinian among them. Among the native sons of Virginia must be included Dr. Julien Dabney Jackson, who was born in the capital city of Richmond, on April 22, 1890. He is a son of Baxter F. and Kate (Dabney) Jackson. His maternal grandfather, the late John M. Dabney, was one of the best known men of the State during the last generation and figured prominently in its affairs. Dr. Jackson's maternal grandmother was Elizabeth F. Dabney.

Growing up in Richmond, young Jackson availed himself of the opportunities afforded by the public schools, from which he passed to Virginia Union University, where he did his preparatory work. Later, he did special work in languages and mathematics at Howard University, and took his medical course at the same institution, winning the M. D. degree in 1914.

The following year he began to practice in Richmond, his home town, where he remained for three years. In 1919 he moved to Norfolk, where he has built up a good general practice. While he now does a general practice in medicine and surgery, he expects to specialize later.

In politics, Dr. Jackson is a Republican and is a member of the Episcopal Church. During his school days, a part of his vacations were spent in the dining car service, which



**JULIEN DABNEY JACKSON**

gave him a splendid opportunity to travel over America, and, being a close observer, he profited by the experience.

He is a member of the Physicians' Club of Norfolk, and also belongs to the Tidewater, the Old Dominion, and the National Medical organizations.

Dr. Jackson's favorite game is tennis, and in reading, next after his professional works, he prefers psychology and the best American classics, including, of course, the leading magazines and papers.

His work, both as a student and as a doctor, has given him acquaintance with conditions at close range and he believes that the greatest single need of the race today is a more wide-spread and thorough education.

On Aug. 22, 1921, Dr. Jackson was married to Miss Janie Bell Daniel, daughter of Rev. William Daniel, of Savannah and Brunswick, Ga.

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## JOHN MAURICE ARMISTEAD

It is a great thing to have lived through that momentous period of our history which marked the decline and fall of human slavery and the inauguration in America of a new system of things. Men like Rev. John Maurice Armistead, D. D., of Portsmouth, illustrate in their own lives and careers what one generation of freedom has meant to the race. He was born at Lynchburg on March 1, 1852, and so was a slave boy nine years of age at the outbreak of the war and thirteen years old at the time of Lee's surrender. His father, Frank B. Armistead, while a Christian man, was not a minister. He was the son of Moses and Agnes Langley. Dr. Armistead's mother was Eliza Armistead, a daughter of Jack and Mollie Maxey.

Young Armistead grew up in Lynchburg and learned the shoe-maker's trade. When about seventeen years of age his mind turned to religious matters and he joined the Court Street Baptist Church, Lynchburg. In the fall of 1869 he felt called to take up the work of the ministry and

**JOHN MAURICE ARMISTEAD**

began to prepare himself for the important mission which lay before him. He entered Richmond Institute, now Virginia Union University, and remained there for four years, then took his theological course at Roger Williams College, Nashville, Tenn., which he completed in 1879. In that same year he was ordained to the full work of the ministry by the General Association of East Tennessee and accepted a call from the First Baptist Church of Knoxville, which he served for five years. The congregation made splendid progress under his ministry. During his pastorate in Knoxville he founded and edited the Baptist Companion, as denominational organ of the State. On coming to Virginia its name was changed to The Virginia Baptist, which he still edited. In 1882 he was called back to the mother State and took charge of the work at the Zion Baptist Church at Portsmouth, which he has served continuously for thirty-eight years. Soon after returning to Virginia he made for himself a prominent place in the work of the denomination and his church came to be one of the leading congregations in the State Association. A new house of worship was erected and a number of missions were established from time to time, some of which have grown into regular churches. His prominence in the ministry and his work as a man were recognized in the denomination and he was for seven years Moderator of the State Convention, and for six years Secretary of the Foreign Mission Convention. His position as Chairman of the State Mission Board for twenty-one years gave him a full insight into the denominational work in the State, as well as a deep knowledge of the needs of the race throughout Virginia. He has not sought to reach the people by new devices, or questionable methods., but has preached to them a simple Gospel from the Word of God, and it has borne fruit in the lives of his people. He has given himself wholly to the work of the ministry and has not taken time for any political activities. Dr. Armistead, ever on the alert for the good of his people, called together a few of the prominent churchmen, who founded "The Carey Memorial Institute" in 1906, which is

doing a commendable educational work. Dr. Armistead baptized nine-tenths of the present membership of 2,400.

Among the secret orders he is affiliated with the Masons, Good Samaritans and Pythians. The degree of Doctor of Divinity was conferred on him in 1906 by Virginia Union University.

While residing in Tennessee he was married, on November 6, 1880, to Miss Emma J. Niles, of Knoxville. They have two children, Miss Mary E. and Mrs. Alma A. Cannon.

Dr. Armistead seeks to lead his people, not only in religious matters, but in all enterprises looking to betterment of conditions about them. He took an active part in all the war drives and campaigns, and the prohibition movement.

Dr. Armistead believes that the fundamental need of the Negro race today is for spiritual enlightenment and proper development, which is another way of saying the right sort of education.

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## CLANTON CLAY SOMERVILLE

Rev. Clanton Clay Somerville, A. B., D. D., LL. B., pastor of the Ebenezer Baptist Church of Portsmouth, is one of the recognized leaders of the Virginia Baptist pulpit. Like so many of the notable Protestant ministers of the South, he is a native of North Carolina, having been born there, in Warren County, March 16, 1859. His father, Richard Somerville, was a son of Fred Somerville. The mother of our subject was, before her marriage, Mary Tripp.

He came to school age just about the time the war closed and had such advantages as were afforded by the newly established public schools of that day. There was, some years ago, a State Normal School conducted at Salisbury, and young Somerville attended that for his normal course. Later he matriculated at Shaw University from which he was graduated in 1886 with the A. B. degree. Since that time, Livingstone College has conferred on him the D. D. degree and McKinley University the LL. B. degree.

**CLANTON CLAY SOMERVILLE**

Growing up on the Warren County farm, young Somerville developed those sturdy qualities which were later to raise him to a place of leadership in the race. One of those peculiar circumstances in the life of many a youth caused him to leave home at the age of 16, wearing two pairs of pants and with 35 cents in his pocket. This, with pluck and self determination constituted his capital, and out of which he has built his splendid holdings in realty and mental worth.

He was converted when about sixteen years of age, and joined the First Baptist Church of Warrenton, and after reaching his majority was licensed to preach by this same home church. At the annual session of the Rowan Baptist Association, in 1887, he was regularly ordained to the full work of the ministry, there being 54 churches in the council. He had long before this, however, left Warrenton, but began preaching while still in Warren County. He worked at Hillsboro for several years. He was an earnest and eager student and made for himself an enviable record while in school and college.

Dr. Somerville's first pastorate was the Emmaus Baptist Church at Statesville, N. C., which he served for three years. While on this work he also taught in the local public school, and the church house was repaired under his pastorate. From that time to the present his work has been successful and he has moved steadily upward, occupying some of the best pulpits in the South.

From Statesville he went to the First Baptist Church at Reidsville, which he pastored for five years, remodeling the church and at the same time serving as principal of the local graded school.

At the end of five years at Reidsville, he was chosen District Missionary for the Baptist State Convention and assigned to the work in the eastern part of the State. After three years of fruitful service in this capacity, he resigned to accept the pastorate of the First Baptist Church of Charlotte. Here Dr. Somerville built one of the finest and most commodious colored churches in the South, at an

expense of \$35,000.00 then, though it could not be duplicated for twice that sum now. The successful housing of his congregation at Charlotte was, however, not the most important part of his work. The growth in numbers and in spirituality there was a real contribution to the educational and religious life of the State, and a monument of his zeal. Dr. Somerville remained at Charlotte for six years, resigning in 1905 to accept the pastorate of the Ebenezer Baptist Church at Portsmouth, since which time he has found it necessary twice to remodel the church building and has had the pleasure of seeing large numbers added to the congregation. Its present membership is more than 1,600. The rank of his church in the denomination may be inferred from the fact that the 1920 Lott Carey Convention was entertained by his church. Something of the growth of the missionary spirit of the church may also be seen from the fact that he found it a bit difficult to raise a missionary offering of \$25.00 during his first year in Portsmouth, while in the current year (1920) his people have contributed \$500.00 to the missionary fund and raised \$600.00 for the entertainment of the convention.

While in North Carolina Dr. Somerville was for seven years Moderator of the Rowan Baptist Association, and on retiring from the work to move to Virginia was by that body awarded a gold medal in recognition of his splendid services. Since coming to Portsmouth he has served as President of the Baptist Ministers' Conference one year and as President of the Ministers' League for two years.

In politics he is a Republican and was a delegate at large to the National Republican convention at Chicago in 1920. Among the secret orders he affiliates with the Masons, Pythians, Knights and Daughters of Tabor, and Love and Charity.

On March 15, 1886, which was the year of his graduation at Shaw University, Dr. Somerville was married to Miss Addie L. Brown, a daughter of Henry and Flora Brown, of Salisbury, N. C. Of the eight children born to them, the following are living: Galileo L., Mary L., Julia B., Lillian



B., Wendell C., Olympia, and Anetta F., the two latter of which are now students in Shaw University. In his travel he has practically covered the U. S. and has traveled extensively in Canada.

In addition to his parish work in Portsmouth, he has found time to deliver many orations at corner-stone laying and founding of churches. He has written eight pamphlets and books on race and religious subjects. He operates a printing plant of his own in his own building with three jobbers and one newspaper press on which he prints his weekly paper, "Vigil." He gives employment to four of his own children, besides outside help. His printing business has forced him to install recently a Mergenthaler linotype machine.

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## JAMES LEE SAPP

If the contribution which the farms of North Carolina have made, through the lives of their boys, to the business and professional life of adjacent and even of distant States, could be summarized, it would be seen that many of the most capable and successful men of both races have laid the foundation of their careers in the Old North State.

Dr. James Lee Sapp, of Norfolk, is a native of the old town of Jamestown, N. C., where he was born in 1883. His father, Thomas F. Sapp, was a farmer, and a school teacher, so that the boy had a rather early start in his education. His mother, before her marriage, was Miss Harriett Smith. His paternal grandparents were Fred and Leah Hunt.

Growing up on the farm, young Sapp attended the Jamestown public graded school and later went to Bennett College, Greensboro, for his literary course, from which he was graduated with the A. B. degree in 1907. The boy found it necessary to make his own way at Bennett and later through his medical studies. He did not permit this to discourage him, however, and passed from Bennett College

to Meharry Medical College, where he won the M. D. degree in 1911. He looks back upon the years spent at Bennett College as having been the most potent in shaping his life.

On completing his course in 1911, he located at Lexington, N. C., where he practiced for one year, moving thence to Emporia, Va., where he remained for eight years. In 1920 he made another move, and located at Suffolk, and later still went to Norfolk. He is a member of the Old Dominion Medical Society and of the National Medical Association.

Among the secret orders, he is identified with the Odd Fellows, Masons, Pythians, Gideons, and the Household of Ruth. He holds various official positions in these organizations for several of which he is medical examiner. He is also the local medical examiner for the Metropolitan, the American Beneficial, the North Carolina Mutual and the Southern Aid Insurance Companies.

As Dr. Sapp has studied conditions in the South he has noted a lack of unity among his people and believes that the development of a spirit of co-operation is one of the things most needed today by the race.

At this writing (1920) Dr. Sapp is not married.

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## THOMAS WILLIAM NEWBIE

There is at Norfolk and Portsmouth a remarkable group of young men who are doing splendid pioneer work along financial and industrial lines. One of these is Mr. Thomas William Newbie, of Portsmouth. He was born and reared at Portsmouth and so has worked out his success in his home city. His father, Robert Newbie, who is still living (1920), is a son of Azariah Newbie. The mother of our subject was Mrs. Martha Newbie.

Mr. Newbie has been married twice. His first marriage was to Miss Mary Williams, of Portsmouth, at the age of nineteen. One child, Rosa Newbie, was born to this union. Mrs. Newbie passed to her reward in 1907. On Oct. 4, 1915,

Mr. Newbie was married to Miss Pearl Watford, of the old town of Winton, N. C.

Growing up at Portsmouth, young Newbie went to the local graded school and later to the high school. He made a creditable record at school but as he did not plan to enter professional life, he did not go to college. After leaving high school, he worked ten years in the Portsmouth Navy Yard. Having passed the Civil Service examination, he entered the postal service and was for twelve years attached to the local post office as a letter carrier. Realizing the limitations of the postal service, and observing conditions about him, he launched a real estate business, out of which grew T. W. Newbie & Co., now doing an extensive business in real estate, rents, insurance, stocks, and bonds. His success as a business man brought him into contact and co-operation with several other enterprising young men of Norfolk and Portsmouth, and they have worked together in the formation of a number of successful enterprises. He was one of the promoters and founders of the Mutual Savings Bank of Portsmouth, having been Secretary of the Board of Directors since its organization. He was also one of the promoters of the Tidewater Bank and Trust Co., of Norfolk, and still more recently organized the Standard Building and Loan Association, of which he is Secretary and Manager.

Mr. Newbie is a man of splendid executive ability and remarkable capacity for organization. He is direct and positive without being blunt or assertive. In other words, he is a business man's man. The secret of his success lies in the fact that he puts the best there is in him on the task in hand, but does it with a forward look so as to be ready for opportunity when it comes.

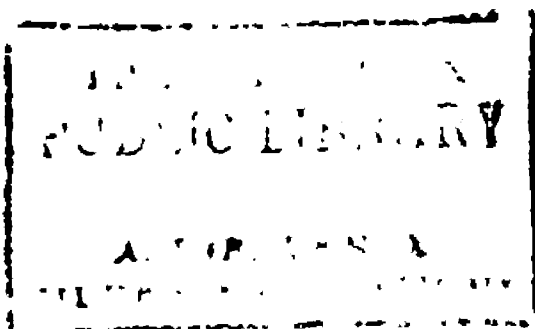
Mr. Newbie is a Republican in politics and belongs to the Masons and Pythians. He is an active and useful member of the A. M. E. church, of which he is a trustee and Asst. Supt. of the Sunday School. He is also identified with the N. A. A. C. P.

Mr. Newbie has studied not only financial conditions but is also familiar with the economic, political, and social





*Thornville*



problems of the race. He believes that a thorough understanding between the races and the right sort of education would contribute much to the betterment of conditions.

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## EDWARD HUGHES HUNTER

One does not find it easy to tell the story of so brilliant and versatile a man as Rev. Edward Hughes Hunter, A. B., A. M., LL. B., LL. M., D. D., without indulging in superlatives.

Beginning life in poverty and obscurity he has won for himself distinction in more than one line of work. This has not been due to any fortuitous circumstances, but has been accomplished by sheer force of character and ability and by the character of the service rendered.

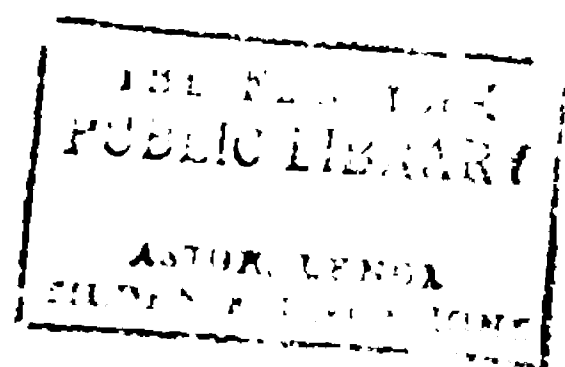
Dr. Hunter is a native of the Old North State, having been born at Raleigh, N. C., Nov. 13, 1865. His mother, Harriet Hunter, was a daughter of Osborne and Mary Hunter, all three having been slaves before Emancipation. Young Hunter's mother was ambitious for him and when he came of school age gave him such advantages as were available in Raleigh at that time. He attended the Mission and public schools of his home town and was fortunate enough to come under the tuition of Miss Louise S. Dorr, a most capable teacher from the North. By the time he was fifteen he had passed the teacher's examination and was actually teaching at sixteen. About this time he was converted and soon after felt called to preach. Other things beckoned, however, and the call to preach was pushed aside from year to year, though he could never quite get away from it. From Raleigh he went to Lincoln University where he was able to enter the Sophomore class, and where he won his A. B. degree at nineteen. Later the same institution conferred on him the A. M. degree. Returning to Raleigh, he taught in the graded school and was later promoted to the principalship, and taught in the Raleigh schools for five years. Having passed the Civil



Service examination, he accepted a government appointment and was assigned to the War Department, where he remained for four years. It was while thus employed that he pursued the law course at Howard University and won the LL. B. degree in 1893. In 1896 he received the LL. M. degree. In the war department he had attained high rank in the classified civil service. After completing his law course at Howard, he was promoted to the Land Office, where he was Law Examiner of Land Claims. He remained in the Land Office for fifteen years.

While in Washington he was active in the work of the church and in 1901 was licensed to preach, doing city mission work and holding small country pastorates. He was also Supt. of the Young People's work, in the Baltimore Annual Conference for several years. In 1909 he resigned his Govt. position at Washington and joined the Virginia A. M. E. Conference. His first pastorate in this Conference was the Bethel Station (Third Street) at Richmond. Here he preached for two years. His wide reading, his splendid training, and his executive ability were all brought to bear on his work. As a pastor he was successful from the beginning. From Richmond he was sent to St. John's, Norfolk, which he served for five years, and which under his ministry came to be one of the most attractive stations of the connection. The church was repaired and an embarrassing old debt was cleared up, while the congregation was greatly strengthened in spirit and in numbers. He served the Emanuel Station, Portsmouth, five years, where the work has greatly prospered under his administration, and was from there promoted to the Portsmouth district. Since joining the Conference he has been a prominent and influential figure in denominational gatherings. He has been a member of the last three General Conferences of the connection and is Secretary of the General Missionary Board. Also a member of the Commission on Incorporation for the General Church. At the 1920 General Conference he was put forward by the Virginia delegation for the bishopric and received a flattering vote.





Among the secret orders and benevolent societies, Dr. Hunter belongs to the Masons, the Odd Fellows and the Crispus Attucks Benevolent Society of Washington.

On June 18, 1903, Dr. Hunter was married to Miss Jennie M. Spears, a daughter of John and Mary Spears. An earlier union with Miss Mary L. Russell, a daughter of Brinkley and Hettie Russell, was blessed with two children, Evangeline and Russell Hunter. The first wife died in 1901. The second was a prominent and successful school principal in Washington, D. C., and has been a wonderful help in the development of Dr. Hunter's public life.

Dr. Hunter's training and experience prior to entering the ministry has made him more than a religious leader. Because of this he has the sympathy and respect of the pew and his advice is frequently sought in legal, educational, and business problems.

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## WILLIAM FRANKLIN GRASTY

Just before the outbreak of the war which was to bring freedom to the race, there was born in Danville, on Nov. 10, 1860, a boy who was destined to make a large place for himself in the religious and educational life of his people. There is no more interesting study in American annals than the stories of men like Dr. Grasty, whose lives so nearly coincide with the period of freedom for the race. Their lives show more clearly than anything else just what one generation of freedom has meant.

Mr. Grasty's parents were John F. Grasty, a farmer, and Jane (Giles) Grasty. On the paternal side the grandfather was a white man of ability and distinction; on the maternal side the grandfather was Paul Townes, a slave of recognized integrity, selected by his master as headsman in place of the usual overseer.

From boyhood young Grasty's mind was inclined to the ministry. In fact he hardly remembers the time when he did not feel that his work in life would be that of preaching

the Gospel. He came to school age soon after the close of the war and entered the local public graded and normal schools. This was followed by a course at Hampton Institute from which he was graduated in 1879. He pursued his advanced college studies and theological work under private tutorship. Let no one imagine, however, that because the story of his education is told in a few lines that the way was easy. In the first place, the home environment was unfavorable, and his father at least was openly antagonistic. As a result, it was necessary for the boy to make his own way by hard work and many sacrifices. But just here the boy and the youth developed those traits which have made of him in mature life the leader true and tried. A thing may be hard without being impossible. In fact, the years have taught him that the most important things are sometimes the hardest.

When about eighteen years of age he was happily converted and identified himself with the Baptist Church. This new relationship reinforced by the study of the Bible has given tone and direction to his whole life. When able to secure a teacher's license he began teaching in Chesterfield County, where he taught for two years. After that he was called back to the schools of his home town and for thirty-eight years has been identified either as teacher or principal with the Danville schools. In this time he has had the satisfaction of seeing many of his boys and girls grow up and pass into places of usefulness in Virginia and adjacent States. His work as an educator soon came to be recognized and he has been selected as instructor in State Summer Normals repeatedly. For the last five years he has been State Director of Summer Normals. For ten years he was President of the Virginia Teachers' Asso. He is a trustee of the Pittsylvania Collegiate Institute at Chatham and Pres. of the Booker T. Washington Institute at Rocky Mount.

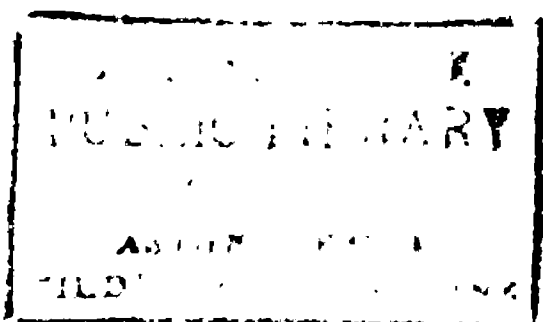
The above merely summarizes his work as an educator. Yet he is equally as well known as a preacher. In 1906 he accepted the call of the First Baptist Church of Danville





11/7 Grasty.





which has greatly prospered under his ministry. His popularity in the denomination may be measured by the fact that for twenty years he has been Recording Secretary of the State S. S. Convention and is Corresponding Secretary of the Baptist Association. He is not only a pulpiteer but also a pastor who knows how to organize and push his work.

In politics he is a Republican. Among the secret orders he is a Mason, and has risen rapidly from the local lodge to the head of the order, having been made Grand Master of the Virginia Grand Lodge in 1919. He is also a man of recognized business ability and is a director of the local savings bank.

His reading is that of a thinker and a scholar and includes the best English and American classics. During the war he took a leading and active part in all the drives and campaigns. It fell to his lot to stand as a sort of interpreter between the races at this most critical time. This delicate but important work was done in a way worthy of the man and the occasion.

Dr. Grasty has been married twice. In 1883 he was married to Miss Alice E. Tucker, a daughter of John and Cena Tucker. Two children were born to this marriage: Clarence H., and Dr. Ernest R. Grasty. In 1898 Dr. Grasty was married to Miss Mary Tucker, a daughter of John C. and Rosa Tucker of Richmond. Mrs. Grasty was educated at Hampton Institute and at Hartshorn College and is herself an accomplished teacher. Two children were also born to this marriage. They are Harriet Annetta and May Alice Grasty.

Dr. Grasty being a close observer and an intelligent man, his views as to how the best interests of the race are to be promoted are of interest. He says, "By the cultivation of a more friendly relationship with the whites; the acquisition of property; the securing and wise use of the ballot; intensifying the work of education, both secular and Christian, and a stricter adherence to the teachings of Jesus Christ".

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# **OSWALD B. H. BOWSER**

**All the professions have felt the rising tide of intelligence.**

**OSWALD BARRINGTON HERNDON BOWSER**

mond Hospital. He volunteered in the M. R. C. during the late war and was commissioned First Lieutenant under competitive examination.

Dr. Bowser has been twice married; first, to Miss Lena Logan Jasper, a popular teacher in the public schools. She survived only a short time, leaving him one child—a son—James Oswald Bowser. Later, he married Miss Alice Estelle Smith, a popular and accomplished public school teacher and elocutionist, with whom he seems happily domesticated.

While naturally the Doctor's professional reading claims much of his time, he still finds time for current literature and loves to dip into the collateral sciences. He is interested in all the larger movements of the race and believes that particular attention should be given to education and training in citizenship. He is a member of the N. A. A. C. P.

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## JOHN THOMAS TAYLOR

Modern insurance has brought to the front in American business life a type of man whose qualities have contributed much to the growth of American business institutions, commercial and industrial, as well as the insurance business itself. There are few lines of activity which call for more versatile and aggressive qualities in a man than does insurance. The financial end of it, which is little else than a phase of banking, must be handled with the care and precision of the banking business. The investment end calls for the foresight and business judgment of a real estate man, while the field end of the work, or that which touches the customers personally, requires a man of ability, energy, and address.

Among the competent and successful insurance men of Richmond must be mentioned John Thomas Taylor, Secretary and General Manager of the Richmond Beneficial In-





Yours truly  
M. S. Taylor



# VIRGINIA E

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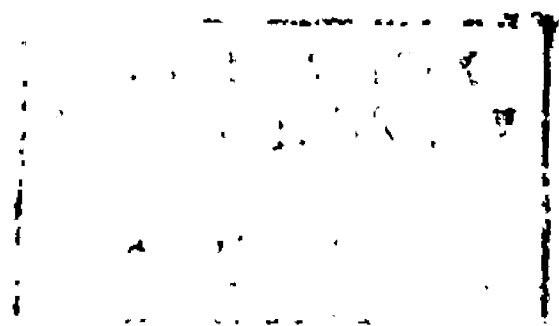
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the Company, whose work is at once a credit to him and a monument to the growing prosperity of the race. He was born in Nottaway County November, 1866. His parents were Charles Wesley and Mary Ann Taylor. While he was still in his childhood, the family moved to Diamond and here he attended the common school. For college, he entered the Virginia Union University, where he graduated with honors. When confronted with the difficulties of a college life without adequate financial resources, he bravely chose the path of duty and labored in the way of his preparation for the ministry and was in the Virginia Union University College.

From early childhood he was a student of the Bible. He was a member of the Virginia Union University and was a member of the Virginia Union University. He was a member of the Virginia Union University and was a member of the Virginia Union University.

He was a member of the Virginia Union University and was a member of the Virginia Union University. He was a member of the Virginia Union University and was a member of the Virginia Union University. He was a member of the Virginia Union University and was a member of the Virginia Union University.

business is a compliment to their energy and capacity and to the soundness of their company.

On July 7, 1892, while still in the work of teaching, Prof. Taylor was married to Miss Lavinia Cox, of Goochland County. Mrs. Taylor was, before her marriage, an accomplished teacher. They have three children: John T., Jr., Ethel L., and Olivia C. Taylor.

In politics Prof. Taylor is a Republican. He has not permitted his pressing business affairs to absorb all of his interest, but gives constant attention to his church work as well. He is a member of the Second Baptist Church of Richmond, and is chairman of the Board of Deacons. Formerly he was Superintendent of the Sunday School.

Among the secret orders he is identified with the Pythians and is chairman of the business committee of the Grand Lodge. He is also identified with the Order of St. Luke. He took an active and prominent interest in all the various war drives and campaigns and is the ardent friend and supporter of education among his people. In fact, he believes that the progress of his race depends upon the right sort of education and training.

He was one of the prime movers in the establishment of the Second Street Savings Bank of Richmond, and his business experience and ability pointed to him as the logical man for president of that institution, to which position he was elected by the board of directors.

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## JAMES WILLIAM THOMPSON

It is a well known fact that many of the most substantial men of the race today began life in the most humble manner. Of course, those who were born before Emancipation had to struggle up from poverty and obscurity. Among these, James William Thompson, of Richmond, has won for himself a measure of success of which he may justly be proud.

He was born in Amelia County on April 14, 1858, so he was a boy of seven when the war closed and remembers

**JAMES WILLIAM THOMPSON**

vaguely some of the closing scenes of that terrible struggle which was to bring freedom to him and to his race. His parents were Essex and Nellie Thompson, both slaves. They remained on the farm after the war and young Thompson grew up on the farm.

He went to the local rural schools, but being in the tobacco belt frequently was kept out of school to work on the tobacco farms.

When about eighteen years of age he broke away from the farm and moved to Richmond. He served as porter for a while, after which he worked at Johnson's Iron Works for two years. He then got into hotel work which he followed for twenty-eight years in the leading hotels of the country. The traveling public in Richmond during the eighties and nineties knew him well. It is as a secret order and benevolent society man, however, that he is best known. Years ago he went into the fraternal work and was a pioneer in the insurance department of the order popularly known as the Independent Order of Good Samaritans. He has been Grand Secretary of the Order for eighteen years, though he has been serving in one capacity or another for twenty-five years. Under his administration more than two hundred thousand dollars have been paid in death benefits, while the total number now insured amounts to approximately ten thousand five hundred, and all this business is handled through Mr. Thompson's office.

On Feb. 19, 1880, he was happily married to Miss Harriett E. Dabney, of Ashland, Va. Of the two children born to them one is living, Bertha E. Thompson.

In politics Mr. Thompson is a member of the Republican party. He is an active member of the Baptist Church, in which he is a trustee. In addition to his connection with the Good Samaritans, he is also prominent in a number of other orders. He is a Pythian and treasurer of his local lodge. He is a member of the Court of Calanthe, in which he is Worthy Counsellor. He belongs to the St. Lukes, in which he is Treasurer.

He holds membership in the True Reformers and the Shepherds. In his Masonic lodge he is Treasurer. He is also identified with the South Side Beneficial Club. He has prospered in a business way and is a stockholder in the local banks. His principal investments are in Richmond.

Though denied the opportunities, which come with college education, on account of the conditions which prevailed in the days of his boyhood, he has succeeded nevertheless. And what is more, he is the friend and supporter of education for the race because he believes in that lies the way to progress for the race.

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## RANDOLPH VINCENT PEYTON

A new book entitled "Acts of the Apostles," might be written each generation, for God still deals with His saints, and Divine leadership is as real in the twentieth century as it was in the first. The progress of the on-coming kingdom has been marked by changes in the lives of individuals and of nations no less marvelous than those which followed Pentecost. We no longer wonder at them because we no longer call them miraculous. But that God does reveal Himself to His chosen ministers and guide those who give him a chance, is illustrated by the life and work of Rev. Randolph Vincent Peyton, D. D., pastor of the Sixth Mt. Zion Baptist Church, of Richmond, which has reached, under his administration, its greatest membership as well as its greatest efficiency in service.

Dr. Peyton was born in Caroline County on Aug. 15, 1863, so it will be seen that he was a boy two years of age at the close of the war. His father, Ananias Peyton, was an "old time" preacher among his people. His wife, the mother of our subject, was Mary Peyton. Dr. Peyton's grandparents were Philip and Dorcas Whitfield. The boy grew up about the quarters much as other boys of his time, but was subject to religious impressions at a very early age. Even as a small boy he had a vision which was as real and

**RANDOLPH VINCENT PEYTON**

as full of meaning to him as were the visions of Ezekiel to that prophet. Soon after the war he lost his father and had to go to work. The family moved to Alexandria and later to Washington. Young Peyton did all sorts of manual labor. Before leaving Alexandria he went to school for a short time. His mother was ambitious for him and like another mother of whom we read "kept in her heart" many things about her boy. To this day he reveres her memory. At nineteen young Peyton was converted and joined the Hillsdale (D. C.) Baptist Church. Immediately he felt called to preach the Gospel, but hung back and hesitated. His brethren sensed what was going on in the mind and heart of the young man, and in the absence of the pastor arranged a week night service for him. He harnessed up and drove sixty miles into Maryland, only to find that he could not get away from God. Patiently he retraced his steps and filled the appointment. He had been none too pious and when it was noised abroad that he was to preach the house was filled to overflowing. A brother introduced him and he rose to speak, but speech there was none. He seemed bound and fettered till, gradually, beginning at the crown of his head, a sensation as of something unwinding spread over him and he realized he was free. He opened his mouth and spoke to the waiting congregation (text Matt. 18:11), which was wonderfully moved. From that day to this he has never had any fear or hesitancy in the presence of an audience, and the ministry thus begun has continued with uninterrupted success to the present time (1920). That was just the beginning. Now again came the realization of the need for better preparation, so he continued studying at Washington.

On July 17, 1878, he had married Miss Mary White, of Caroline County, but he did not permit this to interfere with his plans for an education. He took a course in theology at Howard University and was ordained to the full work of the Gospel ministry in 1887.

In 1889 he organized the Mt. Hermon Baptist Church, which he served for five years. He pastored the Mt. Horeb





Yours truly  
M. S. Taylor

stone College at Salisbury, N. C., where he finished his classical course with the A. B. degree in 1914. Three years later he completed the theological course at the same institution with the B. D. degree.

This preparation for the serious work of life was not made without a struggle and many sacrifices. He was crowded for time and money. The difficulties in the way, however, stirred him to greater effort instead of discouraging him. Dr. Flack experienced the new birth when about eighteen years of age. He soon felt divinely led to give his life to the work of the gospel ministry and in 1910 joined the conference at Asheville under Bishop C. R. Harris.

His first appointment was the Cedar Hill Circuit, which he pastored two years. After that he served Greenville Chapel, Charlotte, one year and remodeled the house of worship; Matthews Chapel, Matthews, N. C., one year, and built a new church, and Pleasant Ridge, Gastonia, N. C., three years and built a new church. At the end of that time, he was transferred to Richmond, Va., where, under his ministry, a splendid brick church formerly used by a white congregation was purchased at a cost of \$35,000. This is at the corner of Clay and Adams streets and was renamed Hood's Temple, in honor of the late Bishop Hood. Both church and parsonage are well equipped and constitute one of the best plants in the connection. Dr. Flack went from this important field to the Oak Street Church at Petersburg, where the work is prospering. Dr. Flack tries to attend all the general connectional meetings and for a man of his age has traveled considerably. His reading has been along the line of his work. Such have been the demands on his time and energies, till now, that he has not given much attention to the secret orders and benevolent societies.

On August 18, 1914, he took a most important step when he was married to Miss Hattie L. P. Neal at Charlotte, N. C. She was educated at Scotia Seminary, Concord, N. C. Mrs. Flack has been of great help to him, being of musical

turn, she has managed his church music and all other festivals. She is truly a helpmeet. They have two children, both girls, Mary Permilla Rollins Flack and Phinn Roy Fredericka Flack.

Dr. Flack has made a careful study of conditions among the people in both city and country and is of the opinion that the thing most needed today is a spirit of racial co-operation.

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## AUGUSTUS N. LUSHINGTON

Dr. Augustus Nathaniel Lushington, V. M. D., of Lynchburg, is a very successful veterinary surgeon. Dr. Lushington is not successful because of any particular fortuitous circumstances, but because he possessed those qualities of mind and heart which would have brought success in other lines of work.

He is a native of Trinidad, British West Indies, where he was born Aug. 1, 1869. His father, William Lushington, was stockman, butcher and truck gardener. William Lushington's father was a native African from the Congo and there is a family tradition that he was closely related to a native prince. Dr. Lushington's mother, before her marriage, was Miss Mollie Dickerson.

When young Lushington came of school age he entered the government schools and pursued his studies through what we would call the grades and the high school, after which he took the teacher training course. After completing this course, he began teaching in the government schools and was soon promoted to a principalship. After teaching for five years, he resigned and went to Venezuela, where he spent three years. The first year out, he was with a British company operating at La Guayra and was engaged in railroad work in the capacity of chief locomotive clerk, general timekeeper and paymaster the balance of the time.

In 1889 he came to the States, where he has since resided. He landed at New York, and having some connec-

**AUGUSTUS NATHANIEL LUSHINGTON**

tions at Binghamton, went there for a short while. On Jan. 2, 1890, he was married to Miss Elizabeth Hubert, also a native of the British West Indies. They have three children, Drucilla A., Christina A., and Bernetta T. Lushington.

After his marriage, he spent two years at Cornell University studying agriculture and general sciences in connection with the medical preparatory course. In the fall of 1894, he matriculated at the University of Pennsylvania for a course in Veterinary Surgery which he completed in three years with the V. M. D. degree. After his graduation he located at Philadelphia, where he practiced for two years, when he was appointed instructor in Veterinary and Sanitary Science and Hygiene at the Bell Mead Industrial and Agricultural College at Rock Castle, Va. Later he resigned this work in order to return to the general practice of his profession. He took time to look the State over and, in 1900, located in Lynchburg, where he has become firmly established. As the character of the man and his work became better known there came to him an increasing practice from the best people. He sought to give them high-class, scientific service which is appreciated. Dr. Lushington's reading runs largely to scientific publications and the current magazines and papers.

Among the secret orders, he is identified with the Masons and the St. Lukes. He is a member of the Episcopal Church, in which he is a trustee. He also enjoys the distinction of being a member of the local Chamber of Commerce.

Dr. Lushington is a careful observer and has had opportunity to study conditions since coming to the States. He believes that the first essential to progress is a better understanding between the best elements of the two races. This, he believes, would lead to closer and more harmonious relationships; mutual confidence would grow, and both races would gain as all advanced toward better citizenship. These views are all the more interesting because they come from a man who is intelligent and not afraid to face the facts.

As Dr. Lushington retains his British citizenship, he takes no active part in American politics. He has been a frequent contributor to the press, and for many years has been serving the Federal Government in the capacity of a Statistical Reporter to the Bureau of Animal Industry of the Federal Department of Agriculture at Washington, D. C. He is a substantial taxpayer.

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## PETER JAMES HENRY

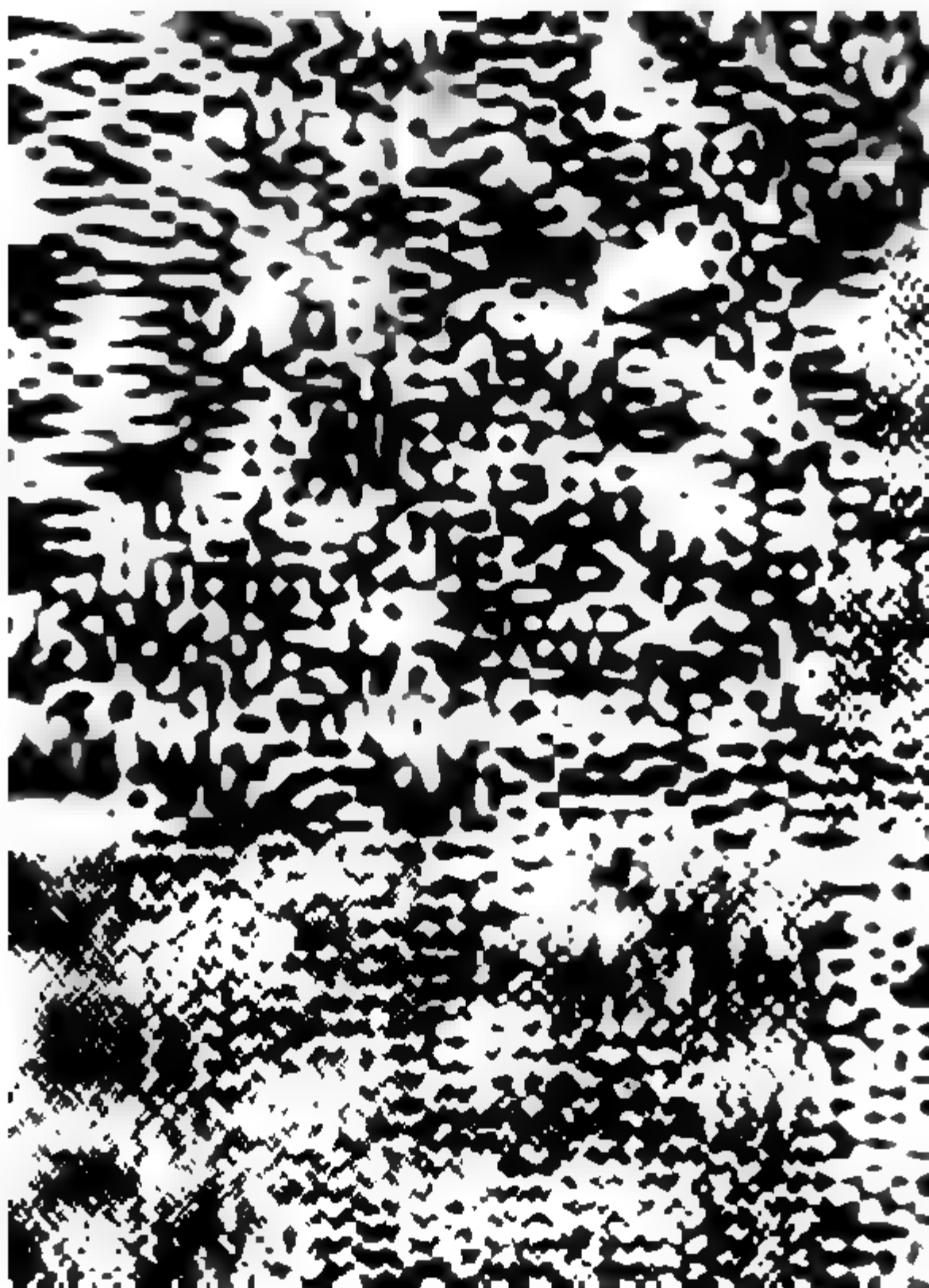
Prof. Peter James Henry, A. B., LL.B., who is a lawyer and also an educator of distinction, is a native of Maryland, having been born in Worcester County, Md., April 3, 1871. His father, Samuel Henry, and his grandfather, after whom he was named, were farmers. Prof. Henry's mother was, before her marriage, Miss Amy Jarman.

Young Henry grew up on his father's farm and attended the local public schools. He was vigorous and energetic and was accustomed to do all sorts of farm work.

He did his preparatory and academic work at Wayland Seminary in Washington, which he attended for five years. He had to support himself and defray his own expenses at college. During the summer he would serve as butler or coachman and return to school in the fall. He passed from Wayland to Virginia Union University for his college course and won his A. B. degree in 1904. While here, he found work about the school property to help out on expenses.

Having decided to study law, he matriculated at Howard University and won his LL. B. degree from that institution in 1907. Three years later, he was admitted to the bar but his practice has been chiefly advisory, as his school work has occupied so much of his time that there has been little left for the courts.

On completion of his course at Howard in 1907 he was called back to his alma mater in Richmond and has since been on the faculty of that institution. He is a versatile



PETER JAMES HENRY



man and has taught various branches but has given special attention to the languages and civil government. Looking back over the years when he was struggling for an education, he gives to his brother, Rev. E. J. Henry, the credit for a large share in his success.

Prof. Henry belongs to the Knights of Pythias and some local benevolent orders. During the World War he was a member of the Legal Advisory Board, of Richmond, Va. He has been a Notary Public since 1910.

Prof. Henry has been married twice. His first marriage was to Miss Myrtle Holmes, on Oct. 7, 1905. She passed away on Oct. 10, 1910. On Dec. 26, 1916, he was married to Miss Marion W. Steward of Richmond, who is herself an accomplished teacher.

Prof. Henry is of the opinion that real progress depends largely on character and intelligence.

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## JOHN MITCHELL, JR.

It is not easy to tell the story of John Mitchell, Jr., of Richmond, without dealing in superlatives; and yet there is something about the quiet dignity and courtesy of the man which makes one feel that superlatives would be distasteful to him.

He was born in Henrico County on July 11, 1863, which at that time was about the most dangerous place in the world in which a boy could be born. His father, John Mitchell, was a son of Emily Mason, his mother's name was Rebecca Mitchell.

He grew up in Richmond and has been identified with that city all his life. From boyhood he has been a hard worker. What is more important, his work has been of a constructive character. He was educated at the Richmond High and Normal School, from which he was graduated. He taught school one year at Fredericksburg and one year at Richmond.

**JOHN MITCHELL, JR.**

It is, perhaps, as editor and publisher of the Planet that Mr. Mitchell is most widely known. He founded the Planet in 1883, beginning with a total capital of only \$50.00. He is the editor and sole owner of the paper, which he has made a publication of great influence in the race. As an editor he is fearless but conservative. He seeks to be a true and helpful leader of his people. The mere noise of agitation does not appeal to him, he seeks progress. He believes in movement and action—provided it is forward. Has he succeeded? The unpromising beginning has grown into a great general newspaper and the insignificant capital has grown to an investment including real estate, plant and equipment which could not be duplicated for twenty-five thousand dollars. His plant is equipped with modern linotype machines, power presses, folder, etc. In addition to printing the Planet, the establishment turns out a large volume of commercial work.

The story of Mr. Mitchell's experience as a banker is as interesting and has been as successful as has his career as a journalist and publisher. In 1909, he and his associates organized the Mechanics Bank with capital of \$16,000.00. It would be tedious to trace the growth of the institution year by year. Sufficient to say that now (1920) the bank has assets amounting to \$672,000.00. Mr. Mitchell has been president since its organization. For sixteen years he has been a member of the American Bankers' Association and enjoys the distinction of having been the only colored man given the chairmanship of a committee of that association. It is also interesting to note that he was taken into the association by a prominent white banker of Richmond who knew him, and was familiar with his history and methods of business. He is a regular attendant of the meetings of the association.

No story of Mr. Mitchell would be complete without some mention of his work in connection with the secret orders and benevolent societies. For twenty-five years he has been Grand Chancellor of the Virginia Knights of Pythias. The order has had good growth under his administration. He

also holds membership in the Odd Fellows and Masons and is Grand Worthy Counsel of the Grand Court of Calanthe.

In politics he is a Republican and has been active in the councils of his party. He was in the Common Council of Richmond for two years and served on the City Board of Alderman for eight years from his ward. He has been a delegate to two National Republican Conventions.

Mr. Mitchell has traveled over the United States and Canada. He is a member of the Baptist Church and his favorite reading is history.

It would weary the reader to tell of all his business activities. He seems to have a genius for going to the head of things with which he is identified. He is President of the Bonded Realty Company, President of the Woodland Cemetery Corporation and President of the Repton Land Company.

Well informed, a clear thinker and a ready speaker, he has been much in demand for speeches and addresses on public occasions.

Such is the outline of a career which is a real asset to the race and which demonstrates the power of steady perseverance and real character.

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## ROBERT CLISSON WOODS

Rev. Robert Clisson Woods, D. D., of Lynchburg, Va., is a young man, not yet thirty-nine years old, who in the last fifteen years has compassed an amount and quality of useful and constructive work, that would be creditable to a man of ability after fifty years service.

He was born at Stewartsville, Bedford County, Va., Nov. 17, 1882. After preliminary training in grammar school and Academy he entered the Virginia Theological Seminary and College, for both college and theological courses, and was finally graduated in 1906. He also read law under private tutors and as a student of Lasalle Extension University. Immediately after his graduation he was called

to the Presidency of Clayton-Williams Academy, Baltimore, Md. This was merely incidental as he has devoted his life to the ministry, and so in 1908 he accepted a call to the First Baptist Church of Staunton, Va., the largest church building and the largest congregation in Northeast Virginia. He was then a young man of 26. In the next three years under his administration a debt of twenty thousand dollars was reduced to seven thousand. Three hundred members were added to church and a large amount of social service work was done among the younger membership of the church.

In 1911 he was called to the Presidency of the Virginia Theological Seminary and College.

This was a remarkable compliment, considering that the men in charge were drafting as the active head of the "School of the prophets" a young man of 29 who but five years before they had sent forth into the world as one of their graduates. The past ten years have amply justified their judgment.

He has made the school an institution of power and influence. Under his able management, the student body has trebled, the faculty has increased one hundred per cent and along with this great growth and improvement along educational lines there has been proportionate growth along the material lines essential to the proper care of the students and teachers. In 1913 was added Fox Memorial Building, a four story brick structure, commodious and with all modern appliances. This building is used as a girls' dormitory. In 1917 was erected Graham Hall, used as a dining hall. This is a one story building with a seating capacity of five hundred. In 1920 a new president's home was purchased and remodelled and fourteen lots added to the campus. In 1921 at a cost of one hundred and fifty thousand dollars was built the Administration Building, which includes offices of administration, gymnasium, class rooms, and an auditorium with a seating capacity of seventeen hundred.

The total increase of the material value of the institution





R. C. Woods,



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in these ten years exceeds two hundred and fifty thousand dollars.

Striking as that fact is, a larger fact is the great prestige the school has gained as a great and successful institution for the propagation of sound learning and Christian ethics.

Naturally knowledge of Dr. Wood's work has spread abroad and he has been honored by many institutions of learning. He is a Doctor of Divinity of Oskaloosa College, Iowa, and of Virginia Theological Seminary and College; Master of Arts of Clayton-Williams University, Guadaloupe College, and others schools.

He is a member of the American Academy of Political Science; National Association for Advancement of Colored People; National Baptist Convention; Virginia Baptist State Convention, of which he was Corresponding Secretary from 1909 to 1912, when pressure of other duties compelled his resignation; Red Men and Odd Fellows. During the World War Dr. Woods was Chairman of the Second, Third, Fourth and Fifth Liberty Loan Committees for Colored in the city of Lynchburg and was affiliated with the Department of the Interior in its work of Negro labor and Economics.

Dr. Woods has been too much pressed for time to engage in literary work but he has found time to write some pamphlets, one of which is "Why I am a Baptist." This pamphlet has had a very wide circulation.

In his younger days he was a base ball player as his preferred form of athletics and has been an extensive traveler in the United States.

Biographies of great men have been most inspirational to him and constitute his preferred reading.

Dr. Woods has been twice married, first on June 6, 1907, to Miss Octavia Hunter, and secondly to Miss Nellie E. Hunter on April 9, 1919.

His children are Octavia M., Reginald C., Maurice F. H., Alcia H., Roslyn and Graham A. H. Woods.

We quote his own words as to the best way to promote the interests of the race: "My opinion is that the best in-

ereests of the race will be promoted by the education of all the children of the races, strict adherence to law, proper administration of justice and equal distribution of State benefits"—which is a sound platform.

A good executive, a wise administrator, he has done brilliant work of a high order, and is yet a young man. It is to be hoped that long life will be his portion that he may add to the sum of his work, for it will be difficult to surpass in quality the work he has already done.

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## ISAAC ARNOLD

North Carolina has contributed many strong men of both races to the religious and educational life of Virginia. Among the leaders of the Baptist denomination who came from the Old North State must be mentioned Rev. Isaac Arnold, pastor of St. Thomas Baptist Church, Portsmouth.

He was born in Washington County, N. C., and there grew to manhood, dividing the days of his boyhood between the farm, on which he did all sorts of manual labor, and the short-term schools where he laid the foundation of his education. He was a steady boy whose mind turned toward the preaching of the Gospel at a very early age, even before his conversion.

The date of Rev. Arnold's birth was November 10, 1867. His father, Jack Arnold, was the son of Sam Davenport, and his wife, Twenty Davenport. She was so named by her mother because she was the twentieth child born to her. Rev. Arnold's mother, before her marriage, was Miss Anne Newberry, a daughter of Bill Arnold and Maria Newberry. The divergence in names is due to the fact that under slavery, the name of the slave usually followed that of the master.

On December 19, 1894, Rev. Arnold was happily married to Miss Mattie Armstrong, a daughter of Anderson and Angelico Armstrong, of North Carolina. Of the nine children born to them, eight are living. They are, Luther I.,

ISAAC ARNOLD

Eva G., Mary A., Johnnie W., Rosa Lee, Lilly Bell, Moses, and James H. Arnold.

When young Arnold was about fourteen years of age, he experienced the new birth and identified himself with the Zion Grove Baptist Church, by which he was ordained to the full work of the ministry. Since then he has led an active life as a preacher, devoting his whole time to the ministry. All the early years of his ministry were spent in North Carolina, where he rose to some prominence in the denomination and was for one year Moderator of the Roanoke Missionary Baptist Association. His first pastorate was Bagley's Chapel in Perquimans County, which he served for seven years. He preached at Alligator Chapel in Tyrrell County two years. He served the church at Columbia eight years and remodeled the house. He pastored Chapel Hill three years and Second Baptist, Plymouth, two years. During a pastorate of ten years at Colerian, a new house of worship was erected. He also preached at White Oak Chapel in Chowan County, one year and Powell's Point one year. His first work in Virginia was at Willow Grove, where he preached two years. He served Little Piney Grove in Princess Anne County, eighteen months, and built a church at a cost of about twelve thousand dollars. He pastored Divine Baptist Church at Deep Creek six years and remodeled the house and preached at Kempsville nine years. Being called to Mt. Zion on the Eastern Shore he served that congregation six years and built a church. A new church edifice was also built at Wachapreage where he served the Herbert Baptist Church. Of course, it will be understood that many of these pastorates overlapped, as frequently Rev. Arnold would be serving three or four churches at the same time. In 1917, he resigned his country work to accept the call of the St. Thomas Baptist Church at Portsmouth, which has taken on new life and has greatly prospered under his administration. He was called back to Deep Creek, which he gives an evening appointment and where he is very popular. He pastored First Baptist Church at Gilmer-ton, Va., six years with great success.

Rev. Arnold has done a great deal of evangelistic work and has been blessed with an unusually fruitful ministry. He has baptized at least three thousand into the membership of the church. Since moving to Portsmouth where he owns a comfortable home, he has been chosen president of the Baptist Ministers' League of that city. He believes that the greatest needs of the race today are co-operation and self-confidence.

Rev. Arnold spent two years in the Albemarle Training School, Edenton, N. C., during which time he led his class. He completed in two years a course which held some others four years. Later, he was a trustee of the same institution and was at one time a trustee of the Roanoke Institute at Elizabeth City, N. C. He believes in liberty and freedom for all men, and is of the opinion that the Gospel, and the Gospel alone, will bring universal peace. He does not think it can be brought about by man-made plans.

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## JEREMIAH MILTON NEWMAN

Dr. Jeremiah Milton Newman, who has been practicing medicine in Richmond since 1910, is a native Virginian, having been born in Orange County on Oct. 13, 1879. His father, the late Rev. Hardin Newman, was a Baptist preacher and a farmer. The Newman family is a remarkable one for numbers and for intelligence. There were fifteen children, thirteen of whom grew to maturity. The oldest brother was in the Spanish-American war, including the battle of San Juan, and in the U. S. Army four years. Another is a minister and was Chaplain with the A. E. F. in France, now (1920) in California; another, the subject of this sketch, is a physician, one is a trained nurse, two are teachers, one a stenographer, one a merchant, and one a mechanic. When our subject was five years of age, the family moved from Virginia to Pennsylvania. It was there that young Newman laid the foundation of his education in the rural schools of Delaware County, after which he went to the Upper Providence High School in the same county.

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**JEREMIAH MILTON NEWMAN**

When ready to begin his medical course, he matriculated at Leonard Medical College of Shaw University, where he won his M. D. degree in 1905. Under the conditions by which he was surrounded in his boyhood and youth, it was necessary for him to make his way in school. He spent his summer vacations on the Fall River Line. He was in the Pullman service for two years after graduation. He did post-graduate work at Philadelphia Polyclinic and the Lying-In Hospital, with a view to specializing on diseases of women and children.

Through the years, from boyhood up, he has been led on and inspired, as he puts it, by "an unlimited faith in God and His promises." He is an active member of the Baptist church, in which he is a trustee.

In July, 1910, he located at Richmond, where he has since resided and where he has taken his place among the leading physicians of the city. Conditions are such that he has been compelled to do a general practice rather than specialize. In his success he has not overlooked the opportunities for service about him. He is always ready to respond to the call of distress and as a result does a great deal of charity work.

On Dec. 2, 1914, he was united in matrimony to Miss Ora Arnetta Johnson, of Richmond. She was educated in Richmond and was, before her marriage, an accomplished teacher.

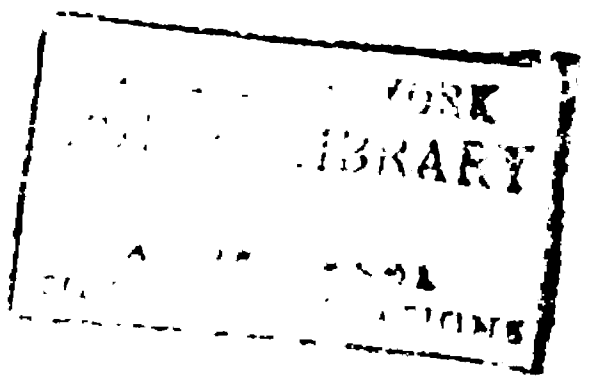
Dr. Newman belongs to the Masons, Odd Fellows and Elks, being Medical Examiner for his local lodges. He is identified with the Richmond Medical Society, the Old Dominion Medical Society and the National Medical Association. He is Medical Examiner for the Standard Life Insurance Co. His property interests and investments are in Richmond.

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WILLIAM HERBERT STOKES



degree in 1903. The following year he won his Master's degree and in 1906 the Ph. D. degree. In the meantime he had, in 1902, succeeded to the pastorate of Ebenezer, which he has served continuously since. Under his administration the house of worship has been remodeled and the membership built up till he now has a great congregation of eighteen hundred members.

Dr. Stokes has also studied Hebrew under the distinguished Jewish scholar, Rabbi Calisch, of Richmond. Such are his attainments as a linguist that he was asked to teach both Greek and Hebrew at his Alma Mater, Virginia Union University.

On Sept. 9, 1902, Dr. Stokes was married to Miss Ora E. Brown, a story of whose brilliant career appears in this volume.

Dr. Stokes is and has been more than a preacher, and his work has been wider than that of the mere pastor. Wherever there was work to be done he was ready to lend a hand. His work for prohibition won for him a beautiful loving cup from admiring friends. He was active in all the war drives and campaigns.

He is director of the Second Street Savings Bank and a trustee of the Smallwood-Corey Institute at Claremont and of the Blue Stone and Harmony Academy at Keysville, Director of the Friends' Orphan Asylum, The Old Folks Home for Colored People, and The Industrial School for Colored Girls at Peaks, Va. He is also identified with the Southern Sociological Congress, the National Conference of Social Work, and the Virginia State Board of Charity. In the denomination he is Vice-Chairman of the Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Mission Board, Secretary of the Foreign Mission Board of the Baptist General Association of Virginia, and Editor of the Lott Carey Herald, organ of the Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Mission Society, U. S. A.

Among the secret orders, he is identified with the Masons, Pythians, Odd Fellows, Good Shepherds, and Good Samaritans. During the summer months he has frequently

done considerable evangelistic work and is the author of two catechisms. He also lectures on modern church problems.

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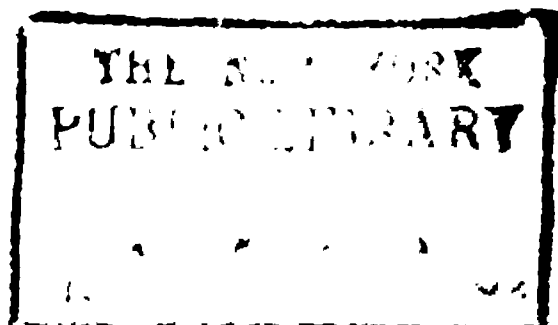
## ORA BROWN STOKES

The story of Mrs. W. H. Stokes, who, before her marriage, was Ora E. Brown, is one of fascinating interest from her childhood to the present. It is not easy to tell the story without indulging in superlatives from start to finish.

She was born at Chester, Va., but was reared at the historic old town of Fredericksburg. Her father, the late Rev. James E. Brown, had educational advantages when schools, among colored people, were unlawful, and school teaching a crime. So he began teaching immediately after the war and was Dr. Booker T. Washington's first S. S. teacher. His parents were Harvey and Maria Brown. Maria Brown being sold from her children, James was reared by his grandparents, Jesse and Eveline Brown. They had some knowledge of books, Jesse being the body-servant of Congressman Garnett, who took his man and his entire family to Washington each year. While in Washington Eveline Brown sewed for the family of President VanBuren. They had one son who organized fifty-one Sunday Schools and churches in Bedford County, Va. Mrs. Stokes mother was, before her marriage, Miss Olivia Knight Quarles, a daughter of Harriet Knight, a North Carolinian. It is through the Quarles family that Mrs. Stokes has had a distinguished kinsman in the Cabinet of a recent President. So with ancestors that were by no means ignorant nor strangers to the best culture of the South, our subject early showed those rare gifts and exceptional qualities which have made her one of the foremost women of the South and enabled her to render her people noble service along various lines.

Her school record has never been surpassed at the institutions which she attended. She laid the foundation of her education in the public schools of Fredericksburg. She

ORA BROWN STOKES



passed to the high school, from which she graduated at the age of thirteen. Here she made the remarkable average of ninety-nine and a half for three years in succession, and was the medalist of her class each year. In recognition of her brilliant record, the city of Fredericksburg sent her to the Virginia Normal and Collegiate Institute at Petersburg. She was graduated from that institution at the age of sixteen, standing the equal in her class in everything and winning the prize in oratory. After her graduation she taught two years at Milford, Va.

On Sept. 9, 1902, she was married to Rev. W. H. Stokes, pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church, of Richmond, and has been no small part of the great work he is doing. After her marriage she went to Hartshorn Memorial College, and again walked away with the medal. She has specialized at Chicago University in Sociology and Anthropology. One would think that such a school record could be made only by sacrificing every other interest, social and religious. Not so. At twelve years of age, she organized a temperance society. She was converted and joined the church at fourteen, but even before that was playing the piano for the Sunday School. When she went to Petersburg, she became in her middle year the first pupil teacher in the Sunday School there, and had charge of the children of the teachers who had families at the institution, and in her senior year was head of the Religious Dept. of the Young Woman's Christian Association.

On coming to Richmond she found a fruitful field for her endeavor. She has brought to bear on her work all her splendid powers and the charm of her personality. Wherever she goes she makes friends for herself and for her work. Though busy with many outside interests, her home suggests cheerful evenings, simple piety, and gracious hospitality.

In the home and church, she has done whatever needed doing. Her versatility has enabled her to work in the Sunday School, sing in the choir, lead the B. Y. P. U. or organize the missionary society. Her executive ability is shown by



the fact that as her services have been demanded in larger fields, she has trained others to take up the local work.

For sixteen years she has been Statistician of the Woman's Auxiliary of the Lott Carey Foreign Mission Convention. She was for several years on the Executive Committee of the Hampton Conference, and was for nine years a trustee of Hartshorn College.

For two years Mrs. Stokes ran successfully a millinery store, and for three years coached young men for Virginia Union Seminary. Some of those who came under her tutelage are already successful pastors and business men.

In 1911, Mrs. Stokes began in Richmond a form of social work which has grown to large proportions, and which has attracted wide attention. Beginning in her home with thirteen members, the work was later organized and incorporated as the Richmond Neighborhood Association, with headquarters at 502 W. Clay St., and a Girls Home hard by. The organization now has a sustaining membership of fourteen hundred and owns property worth ten thousand dollars. Its program of work is comprehensive and above all practical. In its various departments, it seeks to reach and help the erring and the needy, not formally but by the personal touch and in a Christian spirit. One phase of the work takes Mrs. Stokes into the Police Court. In order to facilitate her work the Court made her Probation Officer with power to bear arms and make arrests. An Orphans' Home is conducted and the colored boys in the Reformatory looked after. Careful records are kept which should be of great help to the sociologist as the years go by.

No account of Mrs. Stokes' work would be complete without mention of her war work. She was Chairman of the Colored Womans Section Council of National Defence of Virginia, Secretary of the Fifth Liberty Loan, and Secretary of Food Conservation, Field Agent, Va. War History Commission, Negro Collaborators. She was Regimental Mother for Camp Lee and organized the National Protective League for Negro Girls and the Camp Fire Girls, known as Regimental Sisters, for Camp Lee. She also did valuable work

on the Committee on Training Camp Activities. Mrs. Stokes' voice has been heard in every part of the country, as she is in demand at conventions and race gatherings. When the Negro Organization Society of Virginia was launched, she was the only woman on the organization committee and is one of the vice-presidents. She was the first and only woman to become the Vice-President of the National Race Congress, succeeding Bishop I. N. Ross, resigned. She is a member of the American Academy of Social and Political Science, the American Sociological Society and Pres. of the Va. Negro Women's League of Voters, Vice-Pres., Va. State Col. Women's Clubs, and the National Conference of Social Workers. She holds membership in various other social and reform organizations, and is one of the best equipped and best informed women of the South on all matters relating to the education, the uplift, and the progress of the race.

She is a rare leader whose brilliant intellect and charming personality have been put upon the altar for her people. She simply follows Him "who went about doing good."

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## LLEWELLYN L. BERRY

An energetic, unassuming man who has done each day's work faithfully as the days have come and who in twenty-five years has traveled from an ordinary working boy to a leading position in his Conference is the Rev. L. L. Berry, D. D., who is now (1920), serving his fourth year as Presiding Elder of the Portsmouth District, Virginia Annual Conference of the A. M. E. Church.

Dr. Berry was born at Hampton, Va., Feb. 26, 1876, a son of John and Nancy Berry. His grandparents on the paternal side were John and Sarah Miles and on the maternal side John and Easter Jenifer.

As a boy Dr. Berry worked on the farm and on public work and attended the Hampton public schools.

At thirteen years of age he was converted, at fifteen he

**LLEWELLYN LONGFELLOW BERRY**

felt the call to preach, at seventeen he was licensed as an exhorter, and at eighteen as a local preacher.

In 1899, then being twenty-three, with four years experience as a local preacher, he was admitted to the Virginia Conference in session at Portsmouth, Bishop J. A. Handy, presiding.

In the meantime he had been securing an education. He says he had no special difficulty in making his way except that he had to work his way as to a part. This illustrates his temperament not to magnify difficulties.

He went through Hampton public schools and then entered Kittrell College, N. C., from which he was graduated in 1899, having carried along together the College and Theological Courses.

In 1911 in recognition of his work and attainments, Kittrell College conferred upon him the honorary degree of D. D.

His first appointment was to Yale Circuit, Southampton County, where he spent one year, increased the membership from 16 to 80 and built a church; then to Charlottee C. H. Circuit one year and built a parsonage; next to North Danville Circuit one year and paid the greater part of its debt; next to Harris Creek Circuit one year, followed by two years on Portsmouth City Circuit.

Transferred to North Carolina Conference, he was sent to the Nashville Circuit one year, and transferred again to the Western North Carolina Conference and sent to Laurinburg Circuit for one year and then sent to St. James Church, Winston Salem, 1906 and 1907, where he finished the church building, a beautiful brick structure, at a cost of \$15,000.00. He went from Winston-Salem to Chapel Hill for the canonical term and was then transferred back to the Virginia Conference and sent to Princess Anne Circuit where he remained two years and did splendid work there. He was then stationed at St. James Church, Berkeley, where he remained three years and built one of the best parsonages in the State, thence to his present appointment.

It will be observed that he has gone uncomplainingly

from good appointment to poor, accepting cheerfully whatever work was assigned to him.

He has made good, and his conference elected him a delegate to the General Conference of 1920, St. Louis, Mo. He is a trustee of Kittrell College, his alma mater. During his ministerial career he has done much good work in the school room, one year in Charlotte County, one term at Danville, another in Scotland County, N. C., Principal of Chapel Hill Graded School for four years while stationed there, and one year teaching while on Princess Anne Circuit.

He took an active part in war work for he is temperamentally energetic and therefore active in everything which comes in the line of duty.

In fraternal circles he belongs to the Masons, the Eastern Star and the Elks. In politics he is a Republican, but not active. History and biography, outside of religious literature, constitutes Dr. Berry's preferred reading.

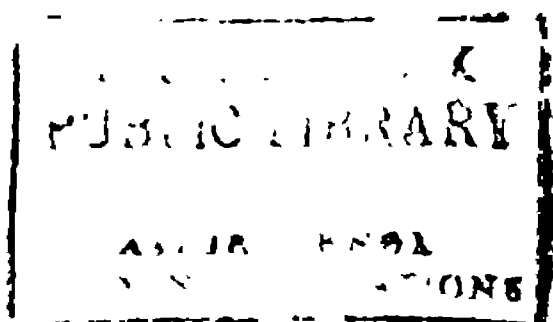
The chief factor in shaping his life he considers to have been the influence of a Christian home supplemented by Church and Sunday School.

Dr. Berry was married on Sept. 26, 1900, to Miss Beulah A. Harris of Person County, N. C., who was educated at Kittrell College and was an accomplished teacher before her marriage. They have five children, Leonidas H., Richard O., Gladys M., Llewellyn L., Jr., and Elbert J. Berry.

For the advancement of the race Dr. Berry pins his faith to education, always more education. There is nothing dramatic about this life story but it is a profitable one to study. Plodding, faithful, useful service has brought its reward. And there has been no side steeping—a single-hearted devotion to the making of Christian men and women, true to his friends, positive, and outspoken.

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**EDWARD RICHARD JEFFERSON**



# EDWARD RICHARD JEFFERSON

It is not easy to write the story of a man like Dr. Edward Richard Jefferson, of Richmond, who is one of the successful physicians of a city long noted for its medical men.

He was born and reared in Richmond and with steady patience worked out his education, and then with careful diligence built up an excellent practice and firmly established himself in the esteem of the profession and the people. There is nothing sensational about his career. When there was work to do, he did it uncomplainingly and moved on to the next task.

The date of his birth was April 19, 1864, right in the midst of the war. His parents were Edmund and Lucy A. Jefferson. The mother was a daughter of Thomas and Mahala Turner. The Jeffersons, father and sons were skillful cooks. It was in this way that the subject of our biography earned the money for his schooling.

He was for a long while engaged at the Westmoreland Club, one of the best known social clubs of the city.

As a boy he attended the Richmond schools. His parents were ambitious for him and when the father saw that the boy was not going into business for himself insisted upon his going to school. Accordingly he entered Shaw University, where he won his B. S. degree in 1892. The following year he won his M. D. degree from Leonard Medical College of the same institution.

On completion of his course, he returned to Richmond, passed the State Board and practiced there for six months. He was then called back to his alma mater as resident physician and passed the N. C. Board. He remained at Shaw University in that capacity for two years and while there taught physiology and chemistry in the college department. Prior to his graduation he had taught public school in Wake County one term.

In 1896 he returned to Richmond, where he has since resided. For nearly twenty-five years he has been doing a successful general practice in the city.



He is identified with the Richmond, the Old Dominion and the National Medical Societies.

Dr. Jefferson is a progressive forward looking man, devoted to the best interests of the race, and a dependable worker, but not an agitator.

His favorite reading, after his professional books, is biography, and he knows the lives of America's great men.

He is an Elk, a Mason, an Odd Fellow, and a Pythian, being Treasurer of the Grand Lodge. He was formerly Grand Medical Examiner for the Knights of Pythias of Virginia and is now (1920) Examiner for the Southern Aid and for the Tobacco Workers' International Union.

In politics he is a Republican, in religion a Baptist. He is also a man of recognized business ability; was one of the founders and is a director of the Mechanics Savings Bank and a stockholder in the Southern Aid Society.

He believes the thing most needed by the race today along all lines is "encouragement."

On Dec. 31, 1915, Dr. Jefferson was married to Miss Hattie B. Harris, of Richmond. They have two children, Edward R., Jr., and Harris Jefferson.

The Jeffersons have an attractive home on North First Street.

Such is the story of a man who, beginning life on the border of slavery, has made a success in his profession and sets a fine example as a citizen.

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## GEORGE WESLEY BLOUNT

He calls himself "just a plodder." Let us take him at his own valuation and see what plodding backed by a keen intelligence will accomplish.

George Wesley Blount, of Portsmouth, Va., was born at Henderson, N. C., Jan. 29, 1879, and is now (1920) in the prime of early middle life. His parents were Robert and Jane Porter Blount. His father was a carpenter. His grandparents were Sidney and Mary Blount on the paternal side, and Elijah and Jane Porter on the maternal. He

GEORGE WESLEY BLOUNT

had the usual experience of the small town boy, working at times and picking up a smattering of elementary education.

In 1896 he entered the famous Hampton Institute at Hampton, Va. He was then in his seventeenth year. He had to work his way through and it took him six years to graduate in the Academic Department, which he did in 1902, and in the Business Department in 1903.

Having decided upon a business career, he studied in business colleges of New York City and Boston, Mass. But his career at Hampton did not end with his student days, his conduct and capacity had attracted the attention of the faculty and he became first an accountant in the Institute, then teacher in the business department and finally assistant commander under Major R. R. Moton, who later succeeded the famous Booker T. Washington as head of Tuskegee Institute, which position he is still holding, measuring up fully to the standard set by Dr. Washington.

Mr. Blount thus had the advantage of training in one of the best schools of the country. Eleven years were spent at student and member of the faculty at Hampton, before he embarked upon his career as an insurance man.

He had the qualifications for the work; patient, persevering, energetic, he had thoroughly equipped himself with information as to the needs of his race, and to that knowledge he added such a study of economics, especially along insurance lines that he was fairly saturated with and enthused by his work.

A born teacher of salesmanship he has the valuable gift of clear literary expression, and his articles on insurance have appeared in the leading official insurance publications of the country, such as *The Life Insurance Independent*, *The Insurance Leader*, *The Insurance Critic*, *The Spectator*, and *The Casualty Review*.

His works and his contributed articles have brought him not only recognition, but high commendation from insurance officials, both white and colored. After his entry in business life he promptly won place. In 1913-14 he served

as Director of the Crown Savings Bank, looking after its interests in Newport News. In 1915 he became Superintendent of the Portsmouth District of the Southern Aid Insurance Society of Va., Inc., which position he is filling at this writing (1920) with distinguished success. In 1919 he became Secretary of The Virginia State Negro Business League. A success in business, it is probably true that his best work continues to be the teaching which he is doing through the written word. He is pungent, direct, simple, and frequently epigrammatic in statement.

He is a Presbyterian in religion, a Republican in politics, and has no affiliation with any other organization of any kind, giving his whole time to his work.

His travels have been confined to the eastern quarter of our country. He is a constant reader of history, biography, autobiography and current news. He is strongly convinced that the best interests of his race demand an enlargement of their activities in commercial lines. He has only been in active business some 13 years and the progress made so far indicates that in the next ten years he will become an outstanding leader.

Mr. Blount was married June 28, 1911, to Emily Josephine Harper, daughter of James S. and Elinor C. Harper, of Augusta, Ga. Mrs. Blount was educated at Haines Normal and Payne College, of Augusta, and prior to her marriage was a teacher at Payne College.

In concluding this brief sketch of one who is making good in the best possible way a quotation from one of his articles illustrates the trend as well as the sanity of his thought:

"The old-fashioned thrift way of paying cash for our needs has been discouraged, and now we pay next month for what he consumed last month. The buying of necessities and luxuries is made easy by the liberal extension of credit, entirely unwarranted and with a demoralizing effect upon some people because it enables them to easily live beyond their finances."

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## **JUNIUS ERASMUS BYRD**

The name of Junius Erasmus Byrd, attorney, has for years been identified with the professional and business life of Richmond. His name as attorney has perhaps attached to as many charters of incorporation as that of any other colored lawyer in the city. While he bears an historic Virginia name he is, in the best sense of the word, a self-made man. He is a native of Dinwiddie County, where he was born a few months after the close of the war, about fifty years ago.

His parents were Richard and Ellen Byrd. The boy grew up in Dinwiddie County, where he divided his time between short term public schools and hard work on the farm until he was seventeen years of age. At an early age, he had evinced an extraordinary thirst for knowledge and a predilection for the law. Hearing more or less of court proceedings and seeing more or less of the local lawyers, he allowed his imagination to work and not infrequently argued his "cases" to a "jury" of forest trees. He read everything on which he could lay his hands and was thus, unconsciously, building a rich vocabulary and getting a practical, workable knowledge of English which, years later, was to make him a popular lecturer on English literature. His craving for knowledge may be gauged by the fact that as a youth he chopped cord wood and slept in the woods in order to earn money for his schooling.

He attended the Payne Divinity School, then known as Major Cook's School, at Petersburg, for three years, after which he went to Baltimore and attended the Fanny Hill School for two years. He read law under the distinguished John M. Langston for three years, and was admitted to the bar July 6, 1892. After that he began the practice of law at Richmond, where he has since been located.

Mr. Byrd is a man of extensive reading, catholic spirit, and a fine judge of literary values. He has given especial attention to the English classics and has lectured widely over the United States on "Nature, Science and Art of the Rising Generation."

**JUNIUS ERASMUS BYRD**

In his practice he has specialized somewhat along business and commercial lines and has helped organize and promote what have become some of the most prosperous financial, insurance, and beneficial organizations in Richmond. At this time (1920), he is attorney for the Mechanics' Savings Bank.

Mr. Byrd is more than a lawyer. He is a man of judicial and logical mind and has the courage to look a situation squarely in the face, whether it is favorable or not.

For years he has been a careful student of racial conditions. He is familiar with every phase of social and political life among his people and is not unmindful of the dangers which confront the nation. He is not, however, a pessimist but believes that a program can be worked out which will make for the benefit of conditions now and for permanent progress in the future.

Mr. Byrd is an active member of the Baptist Church, with which he has been identified for a number of years.

On April 11, 1908, he was married to Miss Helen V. Harris, of Richmond, who before her marriage was a successful teacher in the public schools of the city. They had two children, Junius Erasmus Byrd, Jr., and John Langston Byrd.

Born and reared on the farm, Mr. Byrd has never been able to get entirely away from rural life. He owns and operates an attractive place just outside of Richmond.

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## PERCY JOHNSON WALLACE

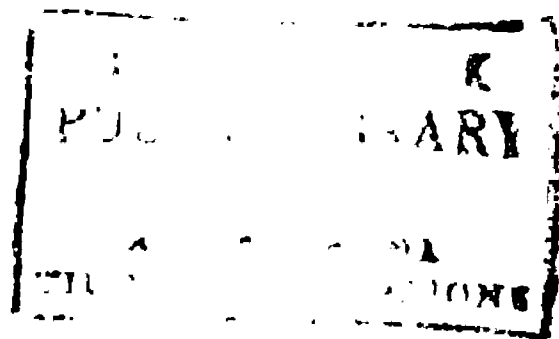
The best biography that was ever written was put in a single brief and simple saying: "He went about doing good." As much may be said, though of course in a different way, of the life and work of Rev. Percy Johnson Wallace, D. D., pastor of the First Calvary Baptist Church at Norfolk. The lives of God-inspired men like Dr. Wallace constitute one of the most valuable resources of the race.







Sincerely  
P. J. Hallard



In the beginning of his career, a life could hardly have been less promising than his. He was born in Louisa County, Va., May 15, 1865, a month after Emancipation. Back of him lay generations of ignorance, poverty, slavery. His parents were Wm. Wallace and Patsy Anderson. The father does not seem to have been a factor in his life. At the age of four and a half years, he lost his mother, who left him in the care of one of his three sisters. She took him to Richmond, where she went to keep house for two single brothers who were employed there. When about ten or eleven years of age, he entered the public schools of Richmond where he remained but a short while when he was stricken with smallpox and sent to the pest house. On recovery of his health, the health officer did not give him the necessary certificate for re-admittance to the school and for that reason he could not return to his studies. He was bitterly disappointed and discouraged, and the situation was not improved by the fact that his sister hired him out for his board and clothes. Several years later, he secured another position, which enabled him to work in the day and attend a private school at night. As if this were not enough, sickness came and for several years he suffered from rheumatism which at one time confined him to his room for seven and a half months and incapacitated him for service for more than three years.

It was while thus afflicted that his mind turned to the serious matters of religion and he professed faith in Christ and felt called to the work of the ministry. Now there was more incentive than ever to struggle for an education and as soon as his health permitted, he took up the fight. So, though often cheated out of his earnings, and oftentimes without food for three or four days at a time, and always poorly clad, he continued his struggle.

In the fall of 1892, he entered Virginia Seminary, now the Virginia Theological Seminary and College, at Lynchburg, but was forced by lack of funds to leave in the following spring. Already he had been licensed and ordained to the full work of the ministry by the Fourth Baptist Church

of Richmond, and was in 1895 called to the Shiloh Baptist Church of Yorktown, and in the following year to the First Shiloh Baptist Church of Hanover County. The story of his struggle during these years to minister to these churches and at the same time to keep up with his school work is like a chapter from the life of Paul. He received from these two churches sufficient compensation to pay his room rent and tuition, and usually had about enough left for two full meals a week. To meet his appointments necessitated traveling monthly nearly seventy miles of country road, and being unable to pay for transportation, he was usually forced to walk. He was now a day student at what is at present Virginia Union University, but hard study, insufficient food, and exposure for eight years reduced him to a very low state of health.

On July 30, 1900, he was married to Miss Eliza Quarles, a daughter of John and Mary Quarles, of Richmond.

In the spring of 1901, he was graduated from the University with the B. Th. degree. Prior to this, he accepted the pastorate of his third church, Mr. Olive, in King William County. Two churches were erected by him, one at his first and the other at his second pastorate, and the work of his second and third charges was carried steadily forward, until he resigned to accept the pastorate of the St. Paul Baptist Church of New York City. Here he came into contact and fellowship with that father in Israel, Dr. C. T. Walker, a colored man of national reputation. He served that church from 1901 to 1906, during which time a place of worship was purchased at a cost of \$22,000.00.

In 1906 he resigned the New York pastorate and came to the pulpit of First Calvary Baptist Church of Norfolk, where in a pastorate of fourteen years his work has attracted the attention, not only of his denomination, but has been featured in non-sectarian publications such as "The Crisis," which contains a full page picture of his house of worship in the May, 1920, number. When Dr. Wallace's congregation outgrew the old house of worship and a new edifice was contemplated, he studied and planned for the

future and together with his architect worked out a building which is a model of completeness and a thing of beauty. It is equipped with every modern appliance and is one of the most commodious, convenient and beautiful structures in the city of Norfolk. It was erected at a cost of \$90,000.00 and was paid for in a little more than two years and what is more had a comfortable balance left in the treasury.

To tell the story of his work here in detail is impossible but it is to be hoped that Dr. Wallace may some time prepare this story. Not unnaturally, he has come to be one of the leading figures in the denomination in the State and nation. He is Chairman of the State Mission Board of the General Association of Virginia, member of the Executive Board of the Lott Carey Foreign Mission Convention and a trustee of the Smallwood-Corey Institute at Claremont. He is much in demand as a speaker at conferences and public gatherings and has, by incessant labor and personal consecration, made for himself a place second to none in the hearts of his people. He says: "Like the Jews of our Saviour's day, my race is in spiritual bondage. Our most urgent need is spiritual freedom. With this freedom will come political freedom. If God be with us, no power on earth will be able to withstand us."

Last but not least, Dr. Wallace's church is not a mere show place, nor an organization, but is a place of spiritual power. He preaches a plain Gospel, which he lives out before them day by day and the result shows in the life of his people.

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## OSCAR CONKLIN JONES

A man of some unusual qualities is the Rev. Oscar Conklin Jones, D. D., now pastor of the Mt. Hermon Baptist Church of Portsmouth, Va.

He is a native of Virginia, born at Arvon, Buckingham County, in 1876. His parents were Oscar and Louvenia Jones. His paternal grandparents were William and Mar-

**OSCAR CONKLIN JONES**

garet Jones, his maternal grandparents were Henry and Cary Ann Young. His father is a shoemaker. He obtained elementary training in a public school at Arvon. Converted at twelve years of age, it was easily borne in upon him that he was called to preach the gospel and in 1893, with the decision made, he started in to qualify himself for the work.

At the West Virginia Colored Institute he prepared himself for college, going thence to Virginia Union University at Richmond, where he took a full course, graduating in 1900 with the degree of Bachelor of Divinity.

His entire educational expenses were paid by his own labor as a coal miner in West Virginia, except two terms, and one who knows of his experiences said: "A man who wants an education bad enough to dig for it out in coal mines has my sympathy."

Leaving the university, Dr. Jones entered upon the career of a Baptist preacher and has given to it single-minded devotion.

First called to Mt. Zion Baptist Church, at Fairmont, W. Va., then to Friendship Baptist Church, Toccoa, Ga., thence to Flag Chapel Baptist Church, Milledgeville, Ga., and from that place to his present work.

Four pastorates in twenty years, and these widely scattered, prove that his work has been acceptable and that he has made a reputation. A thrifty man he has acquired substantial property which shows business as well as clerical capacity.

Dr. Jones is a modest man, he does not talk of himself, or his deeds. He takes everything that he has done as something which was all in the day's work, and therefore not calling for any self-glorification.

Few men would put in so few and such simple words, as he does, the record of his life work. Outside of the church he has no affiliation with the numerous societies which now flourish. A Republican in politics, he contents himself with quiet support of his party.



He has a studious temperament and is fond of history, biography and poetry.

His travels have been confined to our own country with the exception of very limited travel in the borders of Canada. As to the factors which have shaped his life he says simply "An abiding purpose to be and to do something."

On February 2, 1906, Dr. Jones married Myrtle G. Taylor, daughter of Samuel and Amanda Taylor. They have one child, Rufoe Cleona Jones.

When asked to give his idea as to the best way to promote the best interests of his race he answered with his usual clearness and brevity: "Equal opportunity. Removal of all laws that discriminate against us. Accorded the kind of consideration that belongs to men. Justice and fair play is all we ask—nothing more."

The honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity was conferred upon him by his Alma Mater, Virginia Union University. In the prime of early middle life he has attained a measure of distinction which will grow with the years.

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## ALONZO SAMUEL HOARD

Rev. Alonzo Samuel Hoard, now (1920) located at Portsmouth, is a native of Boone Co., Kentucky, having been born at Walton, in that State, January 9, 1880. His father, Thomas Henry Hoard, was a farmer, though he frequently engaged at public work such as railroading. His mother was, before her marriage, Miss Lucinda Anderson. Mr. Hoard's paternal grandparents were Armistead and Maria Hoard. They were natives of Tennessee and lived there until Emancipation, when they moved into Kentucky. Armistead Hoard was a Methodist preacher and was above the average in intelligence at that time, having been taught to read and write by his young master. The Andersons were natives of Virginia, later going to Kentucky also.

From his early boyhood, young Hoard was ambitious for an education, attending the local public schools and later the Springfield High School at Springfield, Ohio, and after

**ALONZO SAMUEL HOARD**

that the Kentucky Normal and Industrial Institute at Frankfort, Ky. In speaking of all this period, he says: "I worked very hard to get the money every summer with which to return to school. In school, I taught classes to help pay my tuition. My people did all they could for me, but they were poor and could not do much. I worked on the farm, for cement contractors and in the machine shops to get money for my school expenses."

When seventeen years of age, Mr. Hoard identified himself with the Baptist Church and was licensed to preach in 1904. For his theological work he entered Virginia Union University, from which he was graduated with the B. Th. degree in 1912.

As he looks back over his boyhood and youth, he believes that the greatest factor in shaping his life was his early consecration to religious work and the encouragement of his parents and friends.

From 1902 to 1906, he taught school in Kentucky. It was in the fall of 1907 that he entered Virginia Union University, but the year before his graduation there he was called to Bethel Baptist Church in Gloucester County. He served that church for seven years and the work greatly prospered under his administration.

In 1918 he was called to the Olive Branch Baptist Church in Norfolk County, and in connection with his work there, served the Union Baptist Church in Princess Anne County. These churches have gone rapidly forward in their work and were never in their history in better condition than they are under the ministry of Dr. Hoard.

On November 27, 1913, he was married to Miss Ivory E. Woodson, a daughter of Phillip and Mary (Bryce) Woodson, of Richmond. Mrs. Hoard was before her marriage an accomplished teacher in the public school.

Mr. Hoard takes an active part in all the work of his denomination and is fully identified with the local association and denominational enterprises throughout the State. He is a member of the Odd Fellows and of the Household of Ruth.

When asked for an opinion about present conditions and the progress of the race, he said: "I think we need better facilities in our public waiting rooms and in our public carriers. I would suggest more leagues in which we can get together with the white people and discuss our problems. I would suggest the building of more and better school houses, with better educational facilities, which I believe would improve conditions among our people."

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## PATRICK HENRY PANNELL

The United States leads the world in the life insurance field. It is true that other countries have great Insurance Societies and a huge volume of business, but when analyzed it will be found that their business is a mere bagatelle when compared with the business in this country.

Resulting from this, much of the best business talent of the country has been attracted to this field. Active, alert, energetic young men casting about for the best field in which to make a successful career, naturally gravitate in large numbers to this field with its almost unlimited opportunity. One of these is the subject of this brief sketch, Patrick Henry Pannell, of Lynchburg, Va., district agent of the North Carolina Mutual Insurance Company. After fifteen years spent in another line, he joined the forces of this company and has met with prompt promotion. P. H. Pannell was born in Concord, Va., on June 19, 1887, son of John L. and Carrie T. Pannell. His paternal grandparents were Samuel and Sarah Pannell, and his maternal grandmother was Sarah Dillon.

Young Pannell, after attending the public schools of Campbell County, took business courses to qualify himself for business, and learned the jeweler's trade. After a period of service in New York, where he had learned the trade, he became connected with D. B. Ryland and Company, of Lynchburg, Va., where he spent ten years.

Then casting about for a larger field he became, in 1917, an agent for the N. C. Mutual. That he made good is

**PATRICK HENRY PANNELL**

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proven by his prompt promotion to be District Supt. at Lynchburg, covering the counties of Campbell, Appomattox, Pittsylvania, Nelson, and Amherst.

He has traveled considerably, keeps himself informed through current literature, and is now in a position of prominence and responsibility.

Mr. Pannell was married August 6, 1912, to Josephine Shearer, daughter of Bass Shearer, who was Secretary of Bennett College. They have one son, Patrick Shearer Pannell.

A Republican in politics, Mr. Pannell is not active in that line. He is a member of the Baptist Church.

For the advancement of the race he pins his faith to education. He is a good example of the bright young men of his race who are yearly going further afield and seeking new avenues in which to exercise their energies.

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## FRANK ARTHUR MARCHANT

A versatile young man, who has the faculty of turning his hand to many things is Frank A. Marchant, at present District Superintendent at Roanoke, Va., for the Southern Aid Society of Va., Inc.

As this well known and successful insurance company is very careful in its selection of men, Mr. Marchant may be said to have his feet firmly planted on the rungs of the ladder of success.

F. A. Marchant was born in Fayette County, Ohio, Dec. 30, 1888, son of James E. and Ella D. Vanhook Marchant. His father was a farmer, and the son of William Marchant. His mother was the daughter of John and Susan Vanhook. John Vanhook was born a slave.

Young Marchant attended the grammar schools of Xenia, Ohio, and the East Main St. High School of that city. He later took a two years' course in the commercial department of Wilberforce University, completing that course in 1914. As he had to work his way through school it is interesting to follow his career. He began as a newsboy in Xenia.

**FRANK ARTHUR MARCHANT AND WIFE**

After completing his commercial course he became bookkeeper and business manager of the Fort Valley High and Industrial School at Fort Valley, Ga., then bookkeeper for Anderson & Co., Bankers, of Jacksonville, Fla., then proprietor of the Star Restaurant, at Xenia, O., this last being a summer occupation; then Traveling Superintendent Southern Aid Society, and now District Superintendent. He is a typical American in that, if he cannot find something for his hands to do which he understands, he will take hold of something new and soon understand it.

Like most American boys he played baseball in his school days, and naturally retains a partiality for the game.

He is alert, industrious and efficient, has a good grasp on business methods and principles and will without doubt develop into a strong business man. He is a member of the A. M. E. Church and the Knights of Pythias.

Mr. Marchant was married Sept. 18, 1918, to Miss Ruby Lawrence, daughter of Albert and Demoris Lawrence, of Cartersville, Ga. Mrs. Marchant was educated at Knoxville College, and prior to her marriage was a teacher in the Fort Valley, Ga., High and Industrial School. They have a little daughter, Alma Winifred Marchant.

In politics Mr. Marchant is a Republican, but like most business men is not active in that line.

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## JAMES WOOD SANDERS

Rev. James Woods Sanders now (1921) stationed at Hampton, Va., like the apostle, has been, "in labors abundant."

Dr. Sanders is a native of Tennessee, having been born about four miles from Nashville on or about April 30, 1857. His father, John Sanders, was a plain hardworking man who died before the boy was grown. His mother, Mary (Moorman) Sanders, was a devout Christian and an earnest prayerful worker in the church. She lived with her son for many years and passed away at seventy-five, having found great joy in his success as a preacher of the Gospel.



JAMES WOOD SANDERS

On Nov. 25, 1891, Dr. Sanders as married to Miss Annie French, of Pueblo, Colo. She bore him two children but passed away at the birth of the second. The baby followed her mother a year later. The older girl, Miss Bernice Sanders, early evinced those qualities of mind and heart which have made her a recognized leader in the educational life of the race. She laid the foundation of her education in Denver, Colo., where she remained till fourth year high school, always leading her class. Coming to Virginia, she taught for a short while after which she matriculated at Wilberforce, graduating "cum sum lauda," with a new high record for the institution. She did special work at Radcliffe in language and mathematics and taught at her alma mater three years, spent one year at Newport News, setting up the High School, and returned to Wilberforce to take the chair of mathematics at an increased salary.

On Oct. 25, 1899, Dr. Sanders was married to Miss Corintha M. Bolden, a daughter of Rev. Henry T. and Mary A. Bolden. She was the valedictorian of the high school class of 1899. Of the five children born to this union, two survive, John N. and George F. Sanders.

Dr. Sanders came of school age about the close of the war. He went to the Presbyterian Mission School at Nashville where he laid the foundation of his education, finishing the normal course in 1873.

The family moved West in 1877. Young Sanders was converted when about 20 years of age and licensed as a local preacher at Pueblo, Colo., in Oct., 1884. In March, 1885 he was sent to Colorado Springs, where he began a remarkable and fruitful ministry already covering a period of thirty-six years. That fall he was sent to Trinidad, Colo., where the work prospered under his administration. In 1886 he was ordained deacon by Bishop Brown at Lincoln, Neb., and sent to Minneapolis, Kan. for one year. A new house of worship was completed and the membership increased. In 1888, he was given the larger and harder field of Salina, Kan. The following year he went to Albuquerque, N. Mex., where the work went forward to success.

He was ordained elder by Bishop Ward, in Pueblo, Colo., 1889, and sent to Helena, Mont., to save a new church building. While here he frequently preached to the soldiers at Fort Shaw and Fort Missoula and organized missions at other points in the State. Having recognized the strategic importance of Salt Lake City, he was chosen by the Bishop for the delicate and arduous task of establishing the work there. This resulted in the erection of a brick edifice in which Bishop Handy held his first conference in 1892. The church at Albuquerque petitioned for his return, and with his bride he went again to that field for two years. While on this work, he also organized churches at Eddy and Roswell, N. Mex.

His next appointment took him to Cheyenne, Wyo., where a burdensome debt was reduced, the membership built up and the whole work improved. Going next to Denver, he pressed the work there with his usual vigor. His next appointment carried him to the important work at Hannibal, Mo., which he served from 1897 to 1899. In 1900 he became private secretary and campaign manager to the financial secretary, Rev. P. A. Hubbard, D. D., and divided his time between Louisiana, Mo., and Pueblo, Colo. His next charge was Leadville, where he preached for two years and had a fine revival. From there he went to Silverton, Colo., serving Durango at the same time and establishing missions in the mountains.

At the 1904 Colo. Annual Conference he requested and secured the position of General Missionary and Fiscal Agent. He wrote the Conference Report on "State of the Country" a document which had a wide reading.

In 1909 Dr. Sanders was transferred to the Virginia Conference and stationed at Staunton. From Staunton he went to Smithfield and from there to Roanoke for three years. He was then promoted to the Norfolk District, over which he presided till 1915. He was again transferred by special order and stationed at Bethel Church, Baltimore, where he inaugurated a remarkable campaign to free that great church from debt. So it came to pass that the Tennessee

boy born in slavery had reached the best appointments in the connection. From Baltimore, he was sent to Berkeley for three years and from there to his present work at Hampton. So in the East as in the West he has been a power in his denomination. Many have been brought into the church and trained for service under his ministry, and many new churches have been built or repaired and thousands of dollars raised for the work of the Kingdom.

The degree of D. D. was conferred on him by Kittrell College. He is a Mason. For more than 3 years he has published "The Herald," a weekly newspaper which has a wide and growing circulation. As editor, he studies the educational, industrial and political condition of his race, and is convinced that the solution of the so-called Southern race problem must inevitably be settled by the stable Christian Southern Whites working in conjunction with the leaders of the Colored race.

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## SMITH ALLEN HOWELL

The mere listing of the important positions held by the Rev. Smith Allen Howell, D. D., of Newport News, will show that we are dealing with a man of unusual ability and attainments. He is pastor of Corinth Chapel Christian Church in Nansemond County, pastor of the Wesley Grove Christian Church, at Newport News, Supreme Grand Commander of the Grand United Order Sons and Daughters of Peace, President of Franklinton Christian College at Franklinton, N. C., President of the Afro-Christian Convention and President of the Penny, Nickel & Dime Savings Bank at Newport News. This is by no means a complete list of the organizations and institutions with which he is identified, but it will serve to show how varied are his interests, how broad his sympathies and how versatile his talents.

Dr. Howell is a native of Nansemond County, where he was born December 29, 1860, a few months before the outbreak of the war. His parents were James and Edith

Howell. His grandparents were Tom and Panthena Howell. As a boy he worked on the farm and at an early age came under the influence of Rev. R. H. Holland, a white minister, who not only showed him kindness but also encouraged him to persevere in securing an education. At the suggestion of Mr. Holland he made application for admission to Franklinton Christian College and later received from that institution the first diploma issued to a colored student, with the degree of A. B. Thirty-six years later, he was called back to his Alma Mater as President. He has the D. D. degree from Association College at Baltimore. While the denominational board contributed to his education, he worked hard each summer to make money for his expenses, till he reached a point where he could secure a teacher's license. After that he taught school for a number of years in North Carolina and Virginia, even after entering upon the work of the ministry, he continued his teaching work as principal of the Newport News graded school.

Dr. Howell was converted when about fifteen years of age and some three years later dedicated his life to the ministry and was licensed at nineteen. He was ordained in 1885.

His first pastorate was the Corinth Chapel Christian Church in Nansemond County, which he has served continuously since 1885. The work here is at once an enduring monument to Dr. Howell and a valuable object lesson in what may be done with country pastorates under proper leadership. Though ten miles in the country, a modern house of worship has been erected at an expense of nearly twenty thousand dollars. The building is 82x64 feet, is finished with art glass windows, seated with solid oak pews, has steam heat and electric lights with class rooms for the Sunday School.

He pastored Pleasant Grove Church in Sussex County ten and a half years and built a new church there also. His pastorate was marked by a healthy growth in the membership. He served the Union Hill Church, also in Sussex County, twelve years and repaired the building. At Suf-

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1. The first step is to identify the problem or issue that needs to be addressed. This involves gathering information and understanding the context of the problem.

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folk he organized a Christian Church, erected a house of worship and served that congregation five years. In 1897 he accepted the call of the Wesley Grove Christian Church of Newport News, where he has since resided. He is now (1921) in his twenty-fifth year of that pastorate. This church has reached the highest point of efficiency in its history under his administration. He found a nucleus of nineteen members, none of whom owned their homes. The membership now numbers about five hundred and includes many of the most substantial men and women of the race in the city. The old church was remodeled and later a new house built which compares favorably with the churches of the other denominations. Best of all, the church has spiritual power. Five missions have been established, four of which have houses in which to worship.

On September 27, 1898, Dr. Howell was united in matrimony to Miss Rosa Artis, of New York City. Mrs. Howell is an accomplished woman and enters heartily into the plans of her husband. They have two children, Susie I. and Mary E. Howell, and an adopted daughter, Mamie J. Howell.

In 1909, Dr. Howell went to South America to supervise the establishment of the Christian Mission work at Georgetown, British Guiana. While there, he ordained one man and licensed five others. It was on this trip that he brought into the Christian Church the late lamented Dr. J. E. Samuels.

Among the secret orders Dr. Howell holds membership in the Masons, Odd Fellows, St. Lukes and Good Samaritans. He is the founder and S. G. C. of the G. U. O. Sons and Daughters of Peace. Under the auspices of this order, he organized, in 1904, single handed and alone, in the face of much discouragement, the Penny, Nickel and Dime Savings Bank, which has come to be recognized as one of the substantial financial institutions of Newport News. He is also interested in the Crayton Department Store and other enterprises. Recently he chartered the Christian Moral & Industrial Training School and Rescue Home for Wayward

Girls, which is soon to be organized. Dr. Howell believes that the greatest single need of the race today is Christian education.

To summarize, we now find the man who started life as a slave: Pastor, Evangelist, Founder, Banker, Returned Missionary from South America, President of the Afro Christian Convention, President of Franklinton Christian College, Pastor of Wesley Grove Christian Church, Newport, News, Va., and Corinth Chapel Christian Church, Nansemond Co., Va.; Founder and Supreme Commander of the Grand United Order Sons and Daughters of Peace; Founder and President of the Sons and Daughters of Peace Penny, Nickel and Dime Savings Bank, Chief Promoter of the proposed Old Folks' Home, and Retreat for old and infirm Ministers, and Founder and President of the Christian Moral and Industrial Training School and Rescue Home for Wayward Girls, Headquarters, Newport News, Va.

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## **WILLIAM HANCOCK ANDERSON**

Capt. William Hancock Anderson, of Richmond, is a man of sturdy strength most of whose life has been spent in Richmond.

He was born in New Kent County, about two years before the outbreak of the war. He remembers vaguely some of the closing scenes of that great struggle which was to bring freedom and opportunity to his people.

The date of his birth was May 6, 1859. His father was Abner Anderson, by trade a miller. His mother before her marriage was Miss Lucy Corbin Mencer, a daughter of William and Sophy Mencer.

The family moved to Richmond while the boy was still a child and he attended the public schools of Richmond. His father had gone into the army during the war, was captured and passed out of the life of the family. The lad had to help support his mother, but he worked faithfully and uncomplainingly. After finishing his work in the public schools he took a course at Moates Business College, which

**WILLIAM HANCOCK ANDERSON**

he completed in 1879 at the age of twenty with the degree of Master of Accounts. Prior to this he had worked as a messenger or office boy or at anything which enabled him to better his condition. After completing his business course, he was, in 1880, employed by the tobacco concern of Henderson & White as bookkeeper and was with the firm two years.

In 1882 he established a book and stationery business and has since been engaged in one phase or another of the publishing and supply business except for such time as he was in the service during the Spanish-American War. At the present time he deals largely in church, school, lodge and society supplies in which he has built up an attractive mail order business. He has had considerable experience as a soldier. In 1885 he was appointed Captain and Adjt. of the First Battalion Virginia Volunteers. On the declaration of war with Spain in 1898, he was appointed by Governor Tyler, Adjt. of the Sixth Virginia U. S. V. and was in the service in that capacity for nearly a year. He served as mustering-in and ordinance officer, respectively. In 1910 he published Anderson's Masonic Directory and also reprinted a book of hymns known as the "Dover Selections," also "The Life of Rev. John Jasper," by E. A. Randolph, LL. B.

Though not active in political matters, Capt. Anderson is a Republican. He is a member of the Baptist Church, he belongs to the Masons, and is a Shriner. He is Past Department Comamnder, Department of the Potomac, United Spanish War Veterans, a true Reformer and Past Grand Patron of the O. E. S. of Virginia.

On May 8, 1885, Capt. Anderson was united in matrimony to Miss Mildred Holmes, a daughter of Geo. W. and Mildred Ho'mes. Of the three children born to them one is living. Her name is Mildred Corbin Anderson.

Capt. Anderson believes that more of his people should engage in business and farming for themselves and thus develop their own capacity. This coupled with a spirit of co-operation, he believes, would contribute much to the progress of the race.

## LINDSEY BAXTER GOODALL

Rev. Lindsey Baxter Goodall, who for more than thirty years has been an active pastor in the Baptist denomination, is a native of this State, having been born at Keswick in Albemarle County, on March 1, 1861.

His father, Rev. M. Goodall, was the son of a Presbyterian preacher. His mother who, before her marriage, was Miss Louise Johnson, was born at Stoney Point. Her grandfather was a full blooded Indian of the Opequan tribe of Winchester Community, Va., and used to tell his children of the fight with the "Pale Faces, in which Gen. George Washington and an English General led the Red Coats. In face and feature, Rev. Goodall has inherited much from his Indian ancestry. He laid the foundation of his education in the Albemarle County public schools and under the private tutelage of Miss Hart. He was an apt student and made steady progress. He was prepared for college by Prof. B. W. Tyrrell. He did two years of college work at Morgan College, Baltimore, and later in May, 1885, finished the course at Wayland Seminary, now Virginia Union University. Later still he pursued his theological studies at Newton Center, Mass., and completed his work there in the spring of 1888. He had been converted as a young man and almost immediately thereafter felt divinely called to preach the gospel. His own estimate of the work of the ministry may be measured by the years he devoted to preparation. He felt that here was a great field of service, and the motive to serve has been the dominating feature of his life. He has shown the true spirit of pastor, missionary, and evangelist. His first pastorate was at Orange, N. J., where he preached one year. In January, 1890, he went to the Union Baptist Church at Augusta, Ga., which he served until June, 1891. At that time he was called to the pastorate of the First Baptist Church of Charlottesville, which he served until the spring of 1895. He paid the church debt while there. After resigning the work there, he pastored Shiloh at Charlottesville and Pleasant Grove at

**LINDSEY BAXTER GOODALL AND WIFE**

Gordonville until the close of 1897. The following two years were spent in the field as financial agent of Valley Institute, after which he was made state organizer of churches and Sunday Schools of West Virginia, in which position he remained for five years. From 1905 to 1908, he was pastor of the Macedonia Baptist Church of Ansonia, Conn. Since 1908 he has served the Mt. Sinai Baptist Church, Earlysville, Va.; and the Shiloh Baptist Church at Waynesboro, since 1914, resigning in 1920 to go to Martinsville. Mr. Goodall has published three books, "Reflecting Incidents" (1904), "Living Hymns" (1905), and "The Weddings Dreams" (1910). Among the secret orders he is identified with the Masons, Knights of Pythias, and St. Lukes. He has done a great deal of evangelistic work which has taken him to various parts of the country. His ministry has been a fruitful one.

Mr. Goodall has been married twice. His first marriage was on Dec. 18, 1888, to Miss Emma Bell, of Charleston, S. C. She bore him three children who were named Angelo C., Lauretta Bell, and Baxter D. Goodall. Their mother passed to her reward, and subsequent to her death, Rev. Mr. Goodall married Miss B. Louise Early, of Harrisonburg, Va., on June 21, 1917. One daughter has been born to this union, Harriet Klemworth Goodall.

Rev. Goodall has studied conditions at the North and in the South, in the city and in the country. He believes that progress depends on the right sort of education. He believes that the youth of the race should be taught observation, business responsibility, a thorough preparation for whatever work they are to follow, and then trained to devote themselves to the improvement of their environment.

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## NELSON FREDERICK McNORTON

In the historic old village of Yorktown resides a colored physician who has made a solid success of his profession, and who has acquired such standing that much of his practice is among white people. This is but another way of



saying that character will overcome apparently insuperable obstacles.

Dr. Nelson Frederick McNorton was born in the village where he now lives on Sept. 28, 1875, son of Dr. Daniel and Sadie Gant McNorton. Dr. Daniel McNorton practiced medicine successfully in Yorktown for forty years, was a man of character, sixteen years a member of the Virginia State Senate. His wife was daughter of N. T. (Sr.) and Maria Gant, of Zanesville, Ohio. N. T. Gant, Sr., was born in Leesburg, Va., from which place he moved to Zanesville.

When young McNorton came to the proper age he was sent to Zanesville, Ohio, where his mother's people lived, and spent five years in the city schools, thus securing advantages not obtaining in Yorktown. From there he went to the Va. Normal and Collegiate Institute at Petersburg, graduating with the degree of A. B. in 1893.

Entering the Leonard Medical College of Shaw University, Raleigh, N. C., he was graduated in 1897 with the degree of M. D.

In that same year he entered upon the practice of his profession at Yorktown. His father was still in the active practice, had made a fine reputation and Dr. McNorton gratefully acknowledges that this was most helpful to him. The elder Dr. McNorton survived until 1918, so that the son had the benefit of his counsel for long years.

But the son had the medical quality as well as the father, and he has built up a reputation of his own, second to no physician in that section.

As riches count in that section he would be classed wealthy, but like most physicians who have the spirit of the work, the first consideration with him is the patient—the fee is another matter.

He is eminently a man of one work. In politics a Republican he takes no active part beyond voting. He is a member of the Baptist Church and the Masonic order.

He holds membership in the Old Dominion Medical Society, the National Medical Association, the N. A. A. C. P. and the National Negro Business League; is Examiner for

**NELSON FREDERICK McNORTON**

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the North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company, and the Standard Life Insurance Company.

Dr. McNorton keeps up with the current literature of the day and has read practically all the race literature. His travels have been mostly in the East, West, and North of our country.

He was married Dec. 29, 1909, to Carrie R. Phillips, daughter of Thomas and Jennie S. Phillips, of York County. Mrs. McNorton was educated at Hampton Institute and prior to her marriage was a teacher.

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## JOHN BAPTIST BROWN

Occasionally one finds in every State in the South a minister or a doctor from the West Indies. A majority of them come from the British West Indies, and not a few of them have had at least a part of their education in England.

One of the capable Baptist ministers of Virginia from the West Indies is Rev. John Baptist Brown, D. D., pastor of the Zion Baptist Church of Petersburg. He was born at Santa Cruz, Jamaica, July 11, 1876. His father was the Rev. William Norman Brown, also a Baptist minister. The maiden name of Dr. Brown's mother was Mary Ann Knight Drummond. She was a daughter of Robert and Mary Drummond.

Young Brown attended the government schools of his native island and did his preparatory work at Montigo Bay, Jamaica. With this foundation of an education, he went to England and matriculated at Bethany House College, Kent. He holds diplomas from the University of Cambridge, England, and from the College of Preceptors, London. Thus equipped he returned to Jamaica and taught for three years. He was converted at fifteen and was baptized while in England. Even as a small boy, before his conversion, he had felt that his work in life must, like his father, be that of preaching the Gospel. He pursued his education with that in view. At nineteen he was licensed to preach.

In 1899, he came to the States, landing at Baltimore.

**JOHN BAPTIST BROWN**

After coming to the States, he entered Virginia Union University for his theological course, which he completed with the B. D. degree in 1902. Since then the same institution has conferred on him the D. D. degree.

In 1900 he was ordained to the full work of the ministry by the Second Baptist Church of South Richmond. In the fall of 1902, following his graduation from Union University, Dr. Brown was called to the pastorate of the Zion Baptist Church at the historic old town of Petersburg.

He has served that church continuously since and under his leadership the work of the church has been thoroughly re-organized and has reached its highest point in membership, in efficiency, and in finances. The congregation is now (1921) planning to replace the old building with a modern new house of worship more adequate to the needs of the growing congregation. During six years of the time, Dr. Brown also served the church at Swans Point in Surry County, giving to that work one Sunday each month. Dr. Brown's thorough education, his rather extensive travels, and his wide reading have given him a breadth of vision and a grasp of church problems which make him one of the prominent men of the denomination in Virginia. He is a member of the Educational Board of the General Association and Statistical Secretary of the Sunday School Convention.

On May 19, 1903, he was married to Miss Etna Flora Moon, a daughter of Albert and Lucy Moon of South Richmond. They have three children, Ursula D. Gwendolyn A., and William A. Brown.

Among the secret orders and benevolent societies, Dr. Brown is an Odd Fellow.

Dr. Brown retained his British citizenship until recently, but is now being naturalized. His favorite reading is, after the Bible, the classics and biography.

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## JOHN ALLEN BROWN

The Rev. John Allen Brown, pastor of the Queen Street Baptist Church of Hampton, Va., devotes himself with singleness of purpose to the ministry of the Gospel.

From a very humble beginning, he has made his way up to a place of leadership with the foremost men of his race; where the influence of his life and work is a power for good, and is ever increasing as the days go by.

He was born in Chesterfield County, Va., on May 7th, 1874. His father, Ishom Brown, was a man of great piety, thrift and vision, a miner by craft, and was the son of the late William and Amanda Brown. His mother was Matilda (Finn) Brown, a woman of queenly bearing, tenderness, and affection. Unfortunately for the boy, she passed away he was only three years of age, and one year later his father died, leaving him an orphan to make his way in the world. Soon after the death of his father, he went to live with his uncle and aunt, Mr. Benjamin Brown and Mrs. Julia A. Brown, in Goochland County, Va. To these two he owes most for the right beginning in life, for they were as father and mother to him in every particular. Here he served in the home, attended public school, and worked on the farm. When he was about fifteen years of age he was happily converted, largely through the interest and aid of his aunt, and almost immediately he felt called to preach the Gospel. This he at once undertook, and was known to many as the "boy preacher."

When around fifteen, he left Goochland County, and went to Richmond to work. While thus engaged, he visited the Y. M. C. A. there, and here he found himself, and was encouraged and inspired to make a man himself. Rev. Scott Burrell led the way in influence, advice and persuasion. In 1897 he was licensed to preach by the Fifth Baptist Church, Richmond, Va., and ordained to the full work of the Gospel ministry by the Rehoboth Baptist Church, Washington, D. C., Rev. John Richard, D. D., pastor, in the fall of 1902.

He is an alumnus of Wayland Seminary, now Union Uni-





versity, Richmond. Va., and Howard University, Washington, D. C., where he completed the Bachelor of Divinity course, and won a scholarship.

On July 21, 1902, he was united in matrimony to Miss Sadie H. Sampson, of Washington, D. C. Mrs. Brown is an accomplished musician, and is a teacher of music. They have two children, Allen H. and Frederick Langston Brown. Allen is now (1920) completing his college preparatory course, while Frederick is a promising intelligent little boy of five years.

Mr. Brown's first pastorate was Shiloh Baptist Old Site Church, Fredericksburg, Va., where for five years, he did a commendable and constructive work. Having resigned that work, he accepted the pastorate of the Tenth Street Baptist Church of Washington, D. C., which he served for several years, with marked success. While in Washington, for a time he was President of the Minister's Conference, and filled that position with dignity and ease. From Washington he went to Staunton, Va., having accepted the pastorate of the Mount Zion Baptist Church, one of the largest churches in the State. There he did splendid work as a financier, pastor, and preacher. In 1918 he accepted the call to the Queen Street Baptist Church, Hampton, Va., his present charge. His work and success in this field have been unusual. Finding a large membership scattered and discouraged, a magnificent edifice unfinished, which had been standing for about 15 years, he counted this his opportunity to render much valuable service where it was greatly needed. Now they have completed and furnished the church at a cost of \$50,000.00, which amount has been raised and paid during his short pastorate; also, they have reduced the bonded debt \$6,000.00. Since entering the ministry, his progress has been steady and commendable. Under his leadership all of his churches have enjoyed good growth. Outside of his pastorate, he does a good deal of evangelistic work; and several thousand souls have been saved through his efforts. He is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Virginia Theological Seminary and College.

He belongs to the Odd Fellows and in politics is a Republican. He is an intelligent student, and believes in keeping abreast with the times. He is a lover of his Bible, philosophy, and history.

He is of the opinion that the leaders of the race should teach more race pride, race unity and ownership of property, also that they should hold up before the people more definite ideals, in order that they may have a clearer vision of their duties, opportunities, and possibilities.

Mr. Brown has not sought to make money in a business way, but owns a home in Hampton, and property in Washington, D. C. He took an active part in the various war drives, and did what he could to help win the war. Recently he was honored with the degree of Doctor of Divinity in recognition of his work and attainments.

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## THOMAS CALVIN EDMUNDS

One of the greatest assets of the race—of any race—is to be found in the self-sacrificing men and women who with singleness of heart are devoting themselves to the cause of education and to the training of the boys and girls of the race. The State, the Nation and the race owe them more than is ever paid in money. One of these capable men is Prof. Thomas Calvin Edmunds, principal of the Daniel Webster Davis High School at Staunton.

Prof. Edmunds is a native of Halifax County, where he was born on the farm May 12, 1870. His parents were Seymour and Rhoda Edmunds. Young Edmunds grew up on the farm and availed himself of such opportunities as were offered by the public schools of that time. He left the farm after he was eighteen and went to what is now Virginia Union University for his academic course which he completed in 1891. He also studied at Howard University for one year. He had no easy task in securing an education. His parents were not financially able to help him and wages were low. His work as a teacher began in 1891 at Greenwood, Va., where he had a one room school over which he

THOMAS CALVIN EDMUNDS AND WIFE

presided for three years. He then secured and taught for four years a larger school at McGaheysville. From there he was called to high school work at Roncevert, W. Va., where he remained for eight years. Since that time he has been in Staunton where he has made for himself a reputation as an efficient progressive teacher.

On Oct. 22, 1896, Prof. Edmunds was happily married to Miss Etta Virginia Robinson of Harrisonburg. She was educated at Wayland Seminary and was, before her marriage a teacher also. They have two children, one boy and one girl. The son is married, the daughter is (1921) a student at Hartshorn College.

Prof. Edmunds keeps in touch with the literature of his profession and is especially fond of books on the theory and practice of teaching. After keeping up with the current news there is little time left for reading, though he is a lover of the classics.

He is a member of the Baptist Church and among the secret and insurance orders is identified with the Pythians and the Southern Aid Society.

In politics he is a Republican. He believes that the best interests of the race are to be promoted by the right sort of education and the acquiring of property. Prof. Edmunds is himself a good illustration of what that course carried out will do for a man.

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## MATTHEW NATHANIEL LEWIS

Matthew Nathaniel Lewis, of Newport News, is a man well known throughout Virginia. Few men of the race in the State have exerted a wider influence in business, political, and journalistic circles than Mr. Lewis. He is a native of Savannah, Ga., where he was born prior to Emancipation, on Aug. 19, 1858. His father's name was John N. Lewis, and his mother's name was Sarah Anne Black.

Mr. Lewis spent his boyhood days in Savannah, where he attended the public schools, from which he graduated at twelve years of age. He worked for two or three years

after that and then went to Howard University, Washington, D .C., where he took the preparatory course. In 1879 he went to New York and was employed in that city for about two years, leaving New York in the summer of 1882. Locating at Petersburg, Va., he studied law under Hon. John M. Langston and was admitted to the bar in 1886 and practiced for two years. Under the Hayes administration he was appointed Deputy Collector of Internal Revenue, which position he held for four years.

By this time he had become influential in political circles and in the early nineties established at Petersburg a newspaper named The Petersburg Herald. Later, he edited and published the Daily Recorder in Norfolk, Va., for four years. In 1898 he moved the newspaper to Newport News, where it has since been issued as The Weekly Star.

Thus it will be seen that for more than thirty years he has been engaged in newspaper work. Few men of the race have been more widely read, or extensively quoted, than has Mr. Lewis. While he is always ready to contend for his rights and the rights of his race, he is not an agitator of the destructive sort. He is a man of constructive ability along various lines and seeks to lead his people into better relations and into a position where they may be able to help themselves.

On coming to Newport News, Mr. Lewis was appointed Inspector of Customs for the port of Newport News, a position which he held for eighteen years. The fact that he was able to hold this position for so many years, under different administrations, is of itself a high compliment to his character and ability.

The pressure of business and other matters made it necessary for him to resign his inspectorship in the fall of 1918.

On April 2, 1882, Mr. Lewis was married to Miss Lillian Friend, of Petersburg. She was educated in New York City. They have one daughter, Eloise, now Mrs. Hubbard.

Mr. Lewis took an active part in all the campaigns and drives during the war. He is Chairman of the Community

Center and is a member of the Inter-Racial Committee. He is a man of splendid business capacity and has valuable property in and around Newport News. He owns some of the very best residence property in the heart of the city and is steadily adding to his holdings. He is Vice-President of the Crown Savings Bank and Secretary-Treasurer of the Bank & Trust Company of Newport News.

Mr. Lewis is a member of the Presbyterian Church, of which he is an elder. He is not active in the work of the secret orders and benevolent societies. He was a member of the National Republican Convention of 1888, which nominated President Harrison. He has had opportunity to study conditions and needs among his people at close range and is of the opinion that the thing most needed by them today is the right sort of education.

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## **WILLIAM HENRY BROWN**

All careful students of race progress in recent years have been impressed with the growth of business enterprises and the development of new lines of business.

Perhaps no field of endeavor has received more attention than has insurance. The class of men attracted to this particular line of work is of such character as to be a credit to the race. Some of them had training in other lines while others have used the knowledge and experience gained in insurance as a stepping stone to still higher things.

Among the enterprising insurance men of Southwest Virginia must be mentioned Mr. William Henry Brown, District Supt. of the Southern Aid Society at Bristol, Va.

He is a native of Abingdon, where he was born Aug. 5, 1878. His mother, Mary Brown, was a daughter of Ellen Brown. As a boy young Brown attended the public schools of Abingdon and Bristol, having moved to Bristol in 1892. Here he worked at various tasks till the outbreak of the Spanish American War. He enlisted in the army and was attached to the Ninth Cavalry and was stationed at Port

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**WILLIAM HENRY BROWN**

Tampa. Returning to Bristol he was, on Dec. 6, 1899, married to Miss Nannie B. Organ, of Lynchburg.

After his return from the war he became associated with some other business men of the city and went into the grocery business, which he followed for thirteen years.

Failing health made a change necessary, so he sold his interest in the grocery business and for seven years has been identified with the Southern Aid, being district superintendent of the Bristol District.

Mr. Brown is a Republican in politics and a member of the Baptist Church. In the latter he is a deacon and Asst. Clerk. He was at one time Superintendent of the Sunday School. Among the secret orders he holds membership in the Pythians, Odd Fellows, Good Samaritans and Court of Calanthe. He is an official in all his local lodges and in the Samaritans is especially prominent, being National Grand Chief of the order and Secretary-Treasurer of the Reserve Fund. He believes the progress of the race lies along the line of business development. In a business way, he is identified with several lodge concerns being a trustee of the Border Star Lodge O. F. Bldg. and a director of the Bristol Enterprise Trading Co. He organized and is partner in the Brown and Doubt Undertaking Co., of which Berry Doubt is Pres. and he the Secretary and Treasurer.

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## SAMUEL BLAND NOBLE

Modern insurance and successful banking are so closely related that it is not strange to find a man like Mr. Samuel Bland Noble of Norfolk after years of successful work in the former also taking a prominent place in the latter. Though having succeeded beyond the average man of his age, there is nothing sensational about his career. Rather he has succeeded because of those steady habits and sturdy qualities which are success. Knowledge is power, and he knows his work thoroughly. That fact coupled with another of no less importance, the power of sustained effort along a chosen line, would seem to be the secret of his success.



**SAMUEL BLAND NOBLE**

Mr. Noble is a native of Danville, where he was born on March 15, 1888. His parents were Samuel B. and Henrietta Noble. When he was five years of age the family moved to Boston, Mass., and he had the excellent advantages of the public and high schools of the Athens of America. He was enterprising and made the best of his opportunities. After completing his high school work he also took a business course which he finished in 1911. He was employed for some time by the Library Bureau and was foreman of the card index department. In 1913, he came South and began insurance work at Charlottesville. After seven months there he went to his native town of Danville as District Superintendent of the well known Southern Aid Society. He remained at Danville for five years. Such was his record with the home office and such the character of his work that in 1919 he was promoted to the Norfolk District. Apart from the Home Office District, Norfolk is the most important district the Society operates. When Mr. Noble got well into his work at Norfolk and came to know the people and something of local resources he, with others, was impressed with the opportunity for a Negro Commercial Bank. Accordingly the organization was perfected, the money raised and a handsome building erected on Church Street.

When it came to permanent organization it was seen that Mr. Noble was the logical man for president, so he was chosen first President of the Union Commercial Bank of Norfolk. Before leaving Danville, he helped to organize the Savings Bank of that city and is still a member of the board of directors. He is also a member of the Board of Managers of the Provident Hospital of Danville.

As he looks back over the days of his boyhood—hard days they were—when he sold papers and shined shoes to make his way in school, he remembers with gratitude the inspiration which came to him from the teaching and example of his mother.

On Jan. 23, 1909, Mr. Noble was married to Miss Lillian Lewis, of Providence, R. I. She was educated at Boston

and is an accomplished teacher. While in school Mr. Noble was an enthusiastic ball player and was at one time manager of the local team in Boston.

He necessarily has to give considerable time to the current news and to business literature. After that his favorite reading is history.

In politics he is a Republican and has at times been active in the councils of the party. Before becoming so engrossed in business he did considerable speaking and campaigning under the auspices of the National Republican Executive Committee.

He is a member of the Baptist church and belongs to the Masons and the Elks. He believes the greatest single need of the race today is education. He took an active part in all the campaigns and drives during the war and was one of the Four Minute Men.

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## THOMAS C. HOFFLER

Rev. Thomas Christopher Hoffler, one of the successful ministers of the A. M. E. Zion Church of Norfolk, is a native of Gates Co., N. C., where he was born May 29, 1861. His father, Wiley Hoffler, was a farmer and the boy was reared on the Gates County farm and attended the public school after the war till he was sixteen years of age. His mother, before her marriage, was Violet Eason, a daughter of Robert Goodman and Margaret Eason. Robert Goodman was one of those enterprising slaves who bought his time and worked when he pleased.

The subject of our sketch was converted when about eighteen years old and joined the local A. M. E. Zion Church. In 1894 he was licensed to preach and, feeling the need of better preparation, determined to go to college. Accordingly, he entered Livingstone College and passed through the normal and theological departments, completing the course in 1916, when past fifty. He joined the New England Conference at Bridgeport, Conn., in 1903, under Bishop J. W. Hood. Speaking of his work as a minis-

**THOMAS CHRISTOPHER HOFFLER**

ter, he says: "I moved from Pergimans County to Elizabeth City, N. C., and worked in a mission one year, under the supervision of Rev. H. B. Pettigrew, at what is known as the St. James Mission. That year we added seven members to the church and organized a Sunday School of forty and put in a library worth ten dollars.

Rev. G. W. Brown was sent from the Virginia Annual Conference to take charge of this mission. I was much disturbed by this arrangement and later withdrew from this mission and joined another under the direction of Rev. W. H. Batchelor, who was willing to help me. I was elected Superintendent of the Sunday School. For two years I did not miss a single Sunday, a fact my pastor seemed to appreciate.

On May 8, 1883, I had been married to Miss Louvania Hester Whedbie, a daughter of Hester Whedbie. We had two children, Maggie Hoffler, now Mrs. Bell, and Lowell Mason Hoffler. On September 27, 1899, my wife died, leaving me one child, the boy having passed away in infancy. In June, 1901, I went to Boston, Mass., and located at Cambridge, where I joined the Rush A. M. E. Zion Church and had my license renewed. I again took up my studies at night and at such other time as I could spare. In 1903 I was recommended from that Quarterly Conference to the new England Annual Conference which met at Bridgeport, Conn. I was examined, passed and received into the Conference, after which I returned to Cambridge and continued in school for a short while. I then moved to Waterbury, Conn., and in 1904 was ordained Deacon.

In 1895 I returned to North Carolina and entered Livingstone College Grammar School. I finished that department and the normal and theological departments and have pastored the following charges: Bethel station one year, Cedar Grove Circuit one year and made repairs, Monroe Circuit one year, Second Creek Circuit two years and remodeled Artis Chapel, Columbia Heights, at Winston-Salem, N. C., one year, and repaired the church. In 1916 I was transferred from the Western North Carolina to the Vir-

ginia Conference and was stationed at Gilmerton Star, which I served four years. At the 1920 Conference I was sent to Emporia Station."

Mr. Hoffler has never been afraid of work, either of the head or of the hand, and is making good progress in his ministry, as evidenced by his having gone from the smallest mission work to station work in a few years.

In politics, he is a Republican, though he has not been active. Among the benevolent orders he is identified with the Knights of St. Mark, Galileans and The American Workmen. He is also a Mason and believes that the progress of the race depends upon two things: one is the right sort of education, the other is the ownership of property and homes. Accordingly he says: "Let all parents see to it that their children have an industrial education and buy all the land they can handle."

On Feb. 26, 1920, Mr. Hoffler was married a second time to Miss Sarah Jane Wilson of Norfolk Co., Va.

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## LUCY ADDISON

The greatest biography ever written was compressed into a single sentence. The writer said of his subject, "He went about doing good." The story of every unselfish life spent in the service of others can be told in a few simple words. Such is the case of Miss Lucy Addison of Roanoke, who has devoted—consecrated—her life to her people at the most strategic point, their education. And yet if all those whom she has helped to higher ideals, larger service, and more noble living, could voice here their gratitude this short sketch would grow to a volume.

Miss Addison was born in Fauquier County, during the war, on Dec. 8, 1861. Her parents were Charles and Elizabeth (Anderson) Addison. Her maternal grandparents were John and Harriett Anderson.

Miss Addison laid the foundation of her education in the local rural schools of her native county. This was supplemented by study under private teachers. As a student and

subsequently as a teacher her work has been characterized by freshness and thoroughness which begets enthusiasm.

From the country schools, she passed to the grammar schools of Philadelphia and later to the Institute for Colored Youth in the same city, from which she was graduated in 1882. Poor health and lack of means seemed enough at times to bar the way to further progress in her education, but we are learning that nothing can defeat one who is willing to pay the price of success. The average teacher gets a diploma or certificate and stops. Miss Addison is not an "average" teacher. After graduating at Philadelphia, she went to Howard University and has made it a practice during the long period of her teaching to attend some institution of learning every two or three years. She has attended the summer schools of the Cook County Normal, Chicago, Ill., and the University of Pennsylvania. In this way she has kept in touch with all the new and approved methods.

She began her work as a teacher in Loudon County, but for thirty-four years has been identified with the Roanoke schools. She is now the principal of the Harrison School, which enjoys the distinction of being the largest colored school in the State with a woman principal. This school has fourteen classrooms, seventeen teachers and an enrollment of over six hundred. The curriculum runs through the ninth grade and includes manual training and domestic science. Miss Addison has lived to enjoy that richest reward of the teacher, which is to see her students grow up and take their places as useful citizens.

She is an active member of the Presbyterian Church and has for a number of years been Superintendent of the Sunday School. She interests herself in whatever pertains to the uplift of the community, and her advice and co-operation are in demand. She is Vice-President of the Burrell Memorial Hospital Association and a member of the Board of Trustees. She is also Chairman of the Woman's Auxiliary. In addition to this she is a member of the Trustee Board of the School for delinquent girls at Peakes, Va.

Miss Addison has read much. Perhaps if her favorite





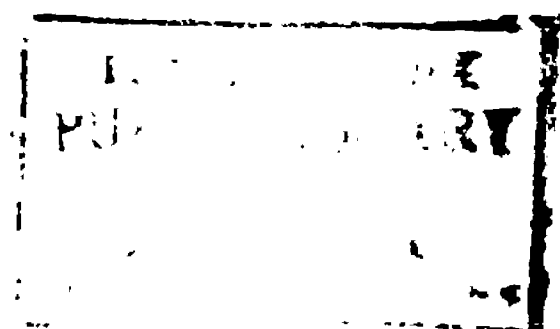
1. The first part of the report discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions. It emphasizes that this is essential for the proper management of the organization's finances and for ensuring compliance with relevant regulations.

2. The second part of the report provides a detailed overview of the current financial position of the organization. It includes a summary of the income statement, the balance sheet, and the cash flow statement. The data shows that the organization has achieved a steady increase in revenue over the past year, while expenses have remained relatively stable.

3. The third part of the report identifies the key areas where the organization's financial performance can be improved. It suggests that implementing more efficient procurement processes and reducing unnecessary overheads could lead to significant cost savings. Additionally, it recommends that the organization should consider diversifying its revenue streams to reduce its reliance on a single source of income.

4. The final part of the report outlines the proposed budget for the next financial year. It takes into account the identified areas for improvement and sets realistic targets for revenue growth and cost reduction. The budget also includes provisions for contingencies and reserves to ensure the organization's financial stability in the face of unforeseen circumstances.

Yours Truly  
Lucy Addison



books and lines of reading should be listed it would run something like this: Bible, professional books, biography, history, current magazines and papers.

It would not be right to say that this quiet, modest, little woman has done a man's work simply because it has been important and successful, rather she has done her own work efficiently, and in her own way is serving well her day and generation.

Some day we may learn that the makers of good citizens should be honored above the destroyers of good citizens and when that day comes we will build monuments to our humble teachers rather than to our warriors.

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## ADOLPHUS HOBBS

Rev. Adolphus Hobbs, who for six years has been pastor of the Jerusalem Baptist Church at Norfolk, is a native of Prince George County, where he was born November 6, 1878. In his struggle up to a place of prominence and leadership, from poverty and obscurity, he has had to face conditions of peculiar adversity which he has done with undaunted courage. The poverty of his parents and the subsequent illness of his mother made it unusually difficult for him to secure an adequate education. Undismayed, however, by such an environment, he worked his way cheerfully to the front and is today one of the leaders of his denomination.

Dr. Hobbs was born on the farm in Prince George County, where he remained till he was seventeen. His father was Nelson Hobbs, who was a son of Kitt and Lucy Hobbs. His mother who, before her marriage, was Miss Henrietta Lucas, was a daughter of Charles and Martha Lucas.

As a boy young Hobbs attended the local public schools. When seventeen he went to Richmond and was for four years engaged in hotel work. After being called to preach he entered Wayland Academy and after that institution was merged with Richmond Theological Seminary to make Virginia Union University, he attended the latter, graduating

**ADOLPHUS HOBBS**

with the B. D. degree in 1913. Since that time the degree of Doctor of Divinity has been conferred on him by Princeton University for correspondence work.

After having been converted at the early age of fourteen, Dr. Hobbs decided, when about twenty-two years of age, to take up the Gospel ministry, and was licensed to preach by the Third Street Baptist Church of Richmond. In June, 1903 he was ordained to the full work of the ministry by the same church.

His first pastorate was the Mt. Holley Baptist Church at Orange, Va., which he served for five years. While there he remodeled the church to meet the needs of his rapidly growing congregation. He found at Orange a membership of one hundred and left the church with five hundred on the roll. He resigned that work to accept the pastorate of the Mount Calvary Baptist Church, at Richmond, where he preached for six years. Here a new house of worship was erected at a cost of twenty thousand dollars, and the church indebtedness reduced to four thousand, while the membership mounted from one hundred twenty to five hundred. He is now (1920) entering upon his sixth year at the Jerusalem Church, Norfolk, which has greatly prospered under his administration. He found this work burdened with debt which has been reduced to \$7,000.00 on a property worth \$150,000.00. The work has been thoroughly reorganized and the membership now numbers 625.

Dr. Hobbs attributes his success in life to the fact that he has had the courage to go forward in the face of obstacles. In his reading he gives first place to the Bible. After that, he is especially fond of the English and American classics. In politics he is a Republican, and among the secret orders is identified with the Masons. He believes that the progress of the race depends upon concentration along all lines of racial activity.

In the denominational organization, he is Corresponding Secretary of the General Baptist Association of Virginia and Treasurer of the State Mission Board of the same body. In 1920 Dr. Hobbs entertained at his church the annual

meeting of the General Association. He is also a Trustee of the Smallwood-Corey Institute at Claremont and Secretary of the Campaign Com. He does his own revival work.

On Jan. 20, 1898, Dr. Hobbs was married to Miss Ardelia Pendleton of Richmond, who was educated at Richmond and was, before her marriage, an accomplished teacher. They have one daughter, Adassa Pearl Hobbs.

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## SAMUEL SHERMAN WATTS

The life and work of a consecrated man like Rev. Samuel Sherman Watts is a real asset to any community. His life so nearly coincides with the freedom of his race that his life may be taken as typical and illustrative of what one generation of freedom has meant to the race. He was born in Rockbridge County on June 23, 1865, which it will be recalled was only a little more than two months after the surrender of Lee at Appomattox. His father, Andrew, belonged to Mr. Sterrett, a lawyer at Lexington, and as was the custom followed his master's name. His mother's maiden name was Caroline Banks, but she lived on the James Watts farm and it was here that the boy was born. After the war when former slaves were allowed to adopt whatever names they chose, the father dropped the Starrett and assumed the name of Watts, by which the family was afterwards known.

The family moved to James River, near Gilmon's Mill and later to Fancy Hill. Here the whole family was together and here the father passed to his reward. The boy, our subject, was then about fourteen years of age. He did his part in supporting the widowed mother, whose Christian life was the splendid heritage she left her children. When about eighteen young Watts was happily converted and joined the Baptist Church, being baptized by Rev. Henry Jamison. Soon after this he felt called of God to preach, but felt keenly the need of better preparation. It was about this time, on Sept. 3, 1885, that he was married to Miss Louise Barber, a daughter of Daniel and Mary Barber. She

**SAMUEL SHERMAN WATTS AND WIFE**



bore him five children: Emma (Mrs. Miller), Isabel (Mrs. McClanahan), Lena (Mrs. Warren), Sherman, and Robert Watts. Feeling after his marriage, that he must preach, he made known his desire. Having been assured of assistance, he sent his wife to Philadelphia to live with her uncle, while he went to the Va. N. C. I. at Petersburg. That was in 1887. Through some misunderstanding the promised assistance miscarried and he was compelled to leave. Discouraged but not defeated he went to Philadelphia and entered the city school and attended Dr. Wayland's church. After Dr. Russell Conwell established Temple College, young Watts was admitted to that institution. He worked during the day and went to school at night and in this way prepared himself for the real work of life. His first pastorate was at Natural Bridge, where he preached for about a year and a half. He served the Cedar Hill Church for two years and repaired the house. He pastored Rising Zion nearly five years and built a new house of worship. He preached at St. James two years and the old home church, Mt. Lydia, two years.

Mrs. Watts passed to her reward in Aug., 1896.

In 1900 Dr. Watts was called to the church at Buena Vista. For twenty-one years he has gone in and out before that congregation. A new church has been built and the membership greatly increased in numbers and strengthened in power.

Dr. Watt's standing in the denomination may be judged from the fact that in 1908 he was made Vice Moderator of the Valley Association and in 1917 was elected Moderator. He has had a fruitful ministry and has exerted a good influence in his section. During the war he took an active part in all the drives and campaigns.

He owns a comfortable place in Rockbridge County. He belongs to the Pythians and Courts of Calanthe.

On Aug. 22, 1900, he was married to Miss Janie B. Kenny, a daughter of Dolman and Sarah Kenny. Three children have blessed this union, Leroy, Floyd, and Sturgis Watts.

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## JOHN HENRY BRAXTON

John Henry Braxton, a successful real estate man of Richmond, has had years of excellent business experience and is considered one of the business leaders of his town. He is a native of Richmond, and the day of his birth was January 1, 1873. His father was James Braxton, who was the son of Rachel Williams. His mother's maiden name was Minerva Hucles. She was a daughter of Nicholas and Martha Hucles. As a boy young Braxton attended the local public and high schools and, looking forward to a business career, took a commercial course in Richmond. At that time, the True Reformers' Bank was a popular and growing institution and Mr. Braxton was employed first as bookkeeper and was later promoted to the position of assistant cashier. With the growth of the order, a real estate department was established by the True Reformers and Mr. Braxton was placed at the head of that department, which position he held for eight years.

In the summer of 1900, he went into business for himself and for the last twenty years has conducted a prosperous and thriving real estate concern on his own account.

On June 24, 1908, he was married to Miss Mattie C. Tinsley, of Richmond. Mrs. Braxton was an accomplished teacher.

Mr. Braxton's business ability and experience have been recognized not only in his line of work, but by local financial and insurance organizations as well. He is a director in St. Luke Penny Savings Bank and is also a director of the Commercial Bank & Trust Company, both of Richmond. He is one of the directors of the National Benefit Insurance Company of Washington, D. C. In 1895 he was on the commission from Virginia to the Atlanta Exposition, in charge of the Negro Exhibit.

He is a Republican in politics, but in recent years has taken no active part in political matters. He is an active member of the Baptist Church and a teacher in the Sunday School. Among the secret and benevolent orders he belongs

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**JOHN HENRY BRAXTON**

to the St. Lukes and Pythians. He takes a prominent part in all movements looking to the economic and civic benefit of his people. He asks for his race nothing which he is not willing to grant to every other race or every other man. He believes that, if given a man's chance, his people will take care of themselves in the battle of life. He is a member of the N. A. A. C. P. With the development of his business his time for reading is naturally limited, and confines him mainly to the news of the day and current magazines.

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## JACKSON TRICE JOHNSON

One of the strong men of the Baptist denomination in Virginia, who has brought things to pass on the fields where he has labored is Rev. Jackson Trice Johnson, pastor of the Third Baptist Church of Hampton. For more than thirty years he has gone in and out before the people and has back of him a record of work which will be remembered long after he has gone.

Dr. Johnson is a native of Louisa County, where he was born July 18, 1869. His parents were Festus and Ann Johnson. He worked on the farm as a boy and went to the rural schools of Louisa and Orange Counties.

When about fifteen years of age he gave his heart to God and almost immediately felt called to the work of the Master in preaching the Gospel. He did not hesitate nor evade his call to the work of the ministry. Rather he showed how seriously he took it by beginning to prepare himself for efficient service in the vineyard of the Lord. He attended school at the Bishop Payne Divinity School of Petersburg and while there pursued both his literary and theological studies. He completed his work there in 1887. When about twenty years of age he was licensed to preach and was ordained to the full work of the ministry by the Pleasant Grove Baptist Church at Gordonsville in 1889. In the meantime he had engaged in the work of

JACKSON TRICE JOHNSON

teaching at Gordonsville, as principal of the graded school, and was connected with the school there for nineteen years. He also taught at Orange for two years, as principal of graded school. He was pres. of the Piedmont Industrial High School four years. Many of the boys and girls who then went to his schools have grown up to all places of usefulness as men and women in their respective communities.

Dr. Johnson's first regular pastorate was at Shenandoah City in Page County, where he preached for seven years. He also served Mt. Olivet in Albermarle four years, and remodeled the house of worship, Union Ridge fifteen years, and Free Union of Mechanicsville, seven years. A new church was erected at the latter. In 1907 he accepted a call from the Third Baptist Church of Hampton, which has prospered under his administration. The house of worship has been repaired and the congregation built up.

Dr. Johnson has been married twice. His first marriage was in 1889 to Miss Margaret S. Armstrong, of Gordonsville. She bore him four children. They are, Littleton, Raymond, J. Bernard, and Martha A. Johnson. In 1898, Mrs. Johnson passed to her reward. On Sept. 1, 1903, he was married a second time. This marriage was to Miss Carolyn H. Brown of Barboursville, who was educated in Washington.

Dr. Johnson has been active not only as a pastor but in the organized work of the denomination. He was for four years Moderator of the Piedmont Association and for eight years Secretary of the same body. He is at this time (1921) Secretary of the State Mission Board of the General Baptist Association of Virginia, and has in charge the Juvenile Court of the city of Hampton.

In politics he is a Republican and among the secret orders is identified with the Odd Fellows, the Pythians and the St. Lukes. He is also a trustee of the Virginia Sunday School Convention.

Dr. Johnson believes that race progress depends on two things. The one is education and calls for development

from within, the other is simply a square deal and calls for justice from the white race—justice in the courts, social justice, economic justice.

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## ISAAC EWER

Rev. Isaac Ewer, Presiding Elder of the Roanoke District of the A. M. E. Connection can say with the apostle of old, "I have fought a good fight." For forty-five years he has gone in and out before the people and from the mountains to the sea his voice has been heard proclaiming the glad tidings of great joy. He is one of the veterans of his church.

He is a native of the Old North State, having been born in Gates Co., N. C. In the absence of written records it is not possible to give the exact date, but it was some time in the fall of 1854. His father was Allen Ewer, and his mother, before her marriage, was Sylvia Gatling.

Rev. Ewer was married on Sept. 4, 1895, to Mrs. Mary J. (Freeman) Thomas, a daughter of Booker and Delphia Freeman, of Salem, Va.

When our subject was still a small child the parents moved to Suffolk, then to Portsmouth, and later to Norfolk. He attended the Suffolk public schools and after that went to Hampton Institute for three years. He took theology through a correspondence course from Kittrell College. He was converted at the early age of nine and almost from childhood felt called to preach. He was licensed and joined the Conference at Portsmouth under Bishop Campbell in 1876. He was ordained Deacon in 1885 under Bishop Turner, and ordained Elder in 1888.

Notwithstanding the fact that he grew up in poverty and in an atmosphere which did not encourage education he struggled to equip himself for the serious work of life and has been one of the most active men of his denomination. His first appointment was in 1876 to the Patrick Mission, which he served two years. In 1881 he went to the Capeville Mission and preached one year, in 1882 Red Bluff

ISAAC EWER



Circuit two years, built one new church; in 1884 Patrick Circuit one year, in 1886 Rocky Mount one year, in 1887 Bethel Circuit three years, built two churches. In 1890 he was sent to Suffolk Station, which he served for two years. In 1892 he was transferred and stationed at Winchester for three years and cleared the property of debt. From Winchester he went to the Staunton Station for two years and in 1897 was sent to the Deep Creek Circuit, where he built two new churches, entertained the District Conference, and remained for five years. His service on this circuit marked the change from the four year limit to five years. In 1902 he went to the Savageville Circuit for one year and from there to the Eastville Station, which he served five years, entertained District Conference, and paid the church debt. In 1908 he was promoted to the district and presided over the Roanoke District for five years. Returning to the pastorate in 1913 he was assigned to the St. James Station, South Norfolk, one year, and in 1914 went to Danville Station, which he served till 1918, where he entertained the Annual Conference in 1918, when he was put back on the Roanoke District, over which he now (1921) presides.

In politics Rev. Ewer is a Republican. He belongs to the Masons. Though nearing three score and ten, he is still vigorous in mind and body and can look back over a generation of efficient service in the kingdom.

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## JAMES HARRISON BAGLEY

In Lunenburg County a visitor, when he comes in contact with the educational, religious, and business leaders of the race, is impressed with the fact that nearly all of them are natives of the county. Not only so, but out in the larger cities are frequently found men and women of splendid equipment who are natives of the county. So it would

seem that Lunenburg County has been productive of men above the average.

One of these who has made a place for himself in the business and religious life of his people is Rev. James Harrison Bagley who, resides near Kenbridge. He was born and reared in Lunenburg County, the date of his birth being May 18, 1890. His father, Duncan Bagley, a farmer, was a son of Duncan and Sarah Bagley. The mother of our subject, Josephine Bagley was, before her marriage, a Miss Seward, the daughter of Anna Seward.

Young Bagley went to the local public schools as a boy. Some of his elementary work was done in Nottoway County. For his academic and theological work, he went to Virginia Theological Seminary at Lynchburg. He was at that institution for five years and won his B. Th. degree in 1914. He was an enterprising youth and made his own way in school.

Mr. Bagley was converted when a mere boy of twelve. Even at that early age he was impressed with a call to preach. In 1913 he was licensed by the St. Mathews Baptist Church and the following year was ordained to the full work of the Gospel ministry by the same church.

On Nov. 10, 1915, Mr. Bagley was married to Miss Cordelia Royal, an accomplished teacher of Nottoway County. They have two children, Royal W. and Frederick H. Bagley.

Mr. Bagley's first pastorate was the Unity Baptist Church, to which he went in 1914, and which he still serves (1921). A new house of worship is being erected. He has been on the work at Mt. Bethel four years. He served Springfield two years. He is now in his first year at Rosebud and in his second at Birchard Hill.

Mr. Bagley taught the Kenbridge School two years—1915 and 1916. He is Clerk of the Harmony Baptist Association and President of the Harmony Sunday School Convention. Mr. Bagley is also a clear headed business man. When the People's Bank of Kenbridge was organized he was one of the promoters and was made a director and first

vice-president. He is also vice-president of the Mercantile Co-operative Stock Co. of Kenbridge.

Among the secret orders he is identified with the Gideons and the Masons.

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## GEORGE PRESTON WATKINS

From the very beginning of its work among the colored people of the South the Presbyterian Church has emphasized education and stressed the matter of trained leadership. Their Universities like Biddle and Lincoln have turned out a class of men second to none in consecration and intelligence.

Among these must be mentioned Rev. George Preston Watkins of Martinsville. He is a native of Danville, where he was born on Aug. 22, 1880. His parents were Purnell and Sarah (Lyles) Watkins.

The boy grew up in Danville and there laid the foundation of his education. When ready for college, he matriculated at Biddle University, with a view to studying medicine later. He was converted about the time he reached his majority and while in college was led to see that the ministry offered a field for service which was itself a call to preach. So he was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, but abandoned the idea of medicine and after completing his college course with the A. B. degree took up the theological course, which he completed three years later. He was under the necessity of making his own way in college, which he did by working at his trade, carpentry, and later in the Pullman service during vacations. The degree of A. M. was conferred upon him by Biddle University in 1913.

As Mr. Watkins looks back now over the days of his youth, including his school days, he realizes the helpful influences of others on his life. He recalls with peculiar tenderness and gratitude Dr. Reynolds and Rev. W. E. Carr of Danville and Prof. Thos. A. Long of Biddle University.

**GEORGE PRESTON WATKINS**

On completion of his work at Biddle Mr. Watkins accepted a call from the church at Stuart, Va., which he served from 1908 to 1911. It was while on this field on Dec. 15, 1910, that he was married to Miss Lillian Physic of Newberne, N. C. She is a daughter of George and Lucinda Physic, and was educated at Scotia Seminary. Needless to say that so far as her health would permit she has entered heartily and sympathetically into the work of her husband. In 1911 Mr. Watkins resigned the work at Stuart in order that he might accept the pastorate of the Grace Presbyterian Church at Martinsville, which he has served for ten years. The church has experienced the greatest prosperity in its history under his administration. A parochial school has been established and has done much to raise the standard of intelligence among his people. Mr. Watkins is Stated Clerk of the Southern Va. Presbytery and has been elected Commisisoner to the General Assembly three times.

Among the secret orders he belongs to the Masons and in politics is a Republican.

Mr. Watkins is not only a preacher, he is a leader of his people in the best sense of the word and concerns himself about their educational and economic well being while preaching to them about spiritual things. It is a fact worthy of note that his people have been responsive to his guidance, so that every head of a family in his church owns his home or the land on which to build.

Such a man preaches not only from his pulpit on Sunday but with his life day by day.

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## RIDDICK HENRY PREE

In Newport News resides R. H. Pree, a young lawyer who has made a rather startling success in his profession in the short space of four years.

Riddick Henry Pree was born in Williamsburg, Va., Feb. 21, 1888, son of John and Endora Diggs Pree.

His father was a laborer. His maternal grandparents



were Joseph and Margaret Diggs, both of whom were former slaves and natives of Virginia.

Young Pree attended the public schools of Williamsburg and the Armstrong Technical High School at Washington, D. C. Later he entered the Law School of Howard University at Washington and was graduated in 1914 with the degree of LL. B.

Prior to that time he had graduated from high school with honors, being First Lieutenant of the high school cadet corps and class orator.

While in high school and law school he worked as a waiter in a Washington boarding house at five dollars per month and paid his way, which proves him to be a sound economist.

Of the influences which have shaped his career Mr. Pree rates the Sunday School, church, and public schools as having been most powerful.

He did not get started into the practice of the law until Aug. 2, 1916, when he opened an office at Newport News, Va.

Within thirty days after opening his office he conducted a murder case, with the assistance of a local attorney, securing the acquittal of his client.

His fame locally was at once secure and from that time to the present he has not lacked clients.

A Republican in politics, he became active in a political way in 1920 and was in that year a candidate for the City Council. He is Second Vice-President of the Colored Voters' Political League of Newport News.

A Baptist in religion, he is active in church work, being Superintendent of his local Sunday School and a member of the Executive Committee of the Virginia State Sunday School Convention. Mr. Pree is a wide and discriminating reader; he loves ancient history, Shakespeare, and English history particularly.

He has been twice married, first on January 11, 1917. His wife passed away on Dec. 25, 1918, and on Sept. 27, 1919, he married Miss Ruth E. Perry, a daughter of William

B. and Celia A. Perry. Of his second marriage there is one child, Ethelwyn Lauraetta Pree.

Mr. Pree in the short time he has been at the bar has acquired a good home, has well appointed offices, and has accumulated a good law library.

He is but on the threshold of his career, and if his health holds good, he will be heard from in coming years, as he has already proved his metal.

As to the method of promoting the best interests of the race, he puts it briefly: "By education, Christianity, organization, and co-operation."

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## JOHN WILLIAM BARCO

The educational and religious leadership of both races in Virginia has been greatly strengthened by the men who have come into the state from North Carolina. Among these must be mentioned Rev. John William Barco, A. B., Professor of Hebrew and Latin at Virginia Union University, Richmond.

Mr. Barco was born in the northeastern part of North Carolina, in Camden County, on June 25, 1877. His father, the late Rev. Henry L. Barco, was for nearly a third of a century one of the leading Baptist preachers of Virginia. He was the son of Thos. and Sylvia Barco. Thomas lived near Shiloh, N. C., and Sylvia was born in New Bern. Both were sold and carried to Georgia before Emancipation. Prof. Barco's mother, before her marriage, was Miss Susan Waters, a daughter of John Waters of Georgia.

Our subject was married on June 7, 1905, to Miss Lucile Williams, a daughter of William and Margaret Williams of Norfolk, Va. Mrs. Barco was educated at Va. Normal and Ind. Inst. and Va. Seminary. They have four children, Wilbur E., Urith M., Lucille M., and John W. Barco, Jr.

Young Barco did his elementary work in the public schools. He went to Hampton Institute for his preparatory course and to Virginia Theological Seminary and College.



**JOHN WILLIAM BARCO**

When ready for college he matriculated at Virginia Union University, graduating with the A. B. degree in 1902. Since that time he has done special work at Newton Theological Seminary and at Chicago University. The elder Barco, father of our subject, could not give his boys much money, but he did what was better, he won their affection and confidence and inspired them to help themselves. The way to a college education was not easy, but was open to him who would pay the price. Prof. Barco did not grumble or complain, he went to work at whatever offered and kept in school.

At high school he served as janitor and while in college taught in the grammar grades during the school months and went north for hotel work during vacations. While in school he was active in college athletics and coached for baseball and football for four years.

In the fall of 1903 he was made principal of the grammar school department of his alma mater, which position he held for four years. The department was discontinued in 1919. In 1905 he was made professor of Hebrew in the theological department, which he still holds (1921). He also has the chair of Latin at the University, which he has held since 1907. From 1912-18 he was local manager of the summer normal conducted at the University each year. During the World War Prof. Barco gave the War Issues Courses to the students army training corps unit at the University. He was for some months identified with the Inter Church World Movement in the educational survey department. He also served during the summer of 1920 as one of the field secretaries of the inter-racial committee of Virginia. For the last five years he has been one of the Bible study leaders of the annual Kings Mountain Y. M. C. A. Student Conference. Thus it will be seen that he has been actively identified with the most important educational and religious movements of the day. In 1902, the year of his graduation, he was ordained to the full work of the ministry by the Zion Baptist Church of Portsmouth, Va. Such have been the other demands on his time, however, that he has

not been able to accept a regular pastorate, though frequently preaching as a supply. Next after the Bible his favorite reading runs to missions and history, especially American and European.

Prof. Barco is a member of the St. Lukes and is a member of the Executive Committee of the Richmond branch of the N. A. A. C. P. He is first vice-president of the Colored Inter Collegiate Athletic Association and belongs to the Alpha Phi Alpha Greek letter fraternity. He is also a member of the executive committee of the Negro Organization Society. It need hardly be added that Prof. Barco is a busy man.

With reference to progress he says, "In Virginia a fundamental need of the race is better educational facilities, which shall include longer sessions, better buildings, better prepared and better paid teachers in both urban and rural communities. I believe these ends could be attained if Negro leaders were given places on school boards and committees and if the National Government would give financial aid in promoting at least elementary and secondary education."

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## ARCHIE ALLEN GRAHAM

Rev. Archie Allen Graham, B. D., D. D., pastor of Zion Baptist Church, Phoebus, Va., and Corresponding Secretary of the Lott Carey Foreign Mission Convention, U. S. A., has in a way, been a preacher all his life. Even before his conversion at sixteen, he had felt from boyhood that his work in life must be that of the ministry. Accordingly whatever else he did prior to entering upon the work of the pastorate may be considered preparatory.

Dr. Graham is a native of Georgia, having been born near Atlanta, in Fulton County, on Feb. 9, 1874. His father was Rev. Wade Monroe Graham, and his mother's maiden name was Elizabeth Blake.

Young Graham attended the public schools at Rome, Ga., the family having moved there during his boyhood. Be-





A. R. Graham

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tween terms he worked on the farm and at one time in the local brick yard. In the matter of education he supported himself from the beginning. This necessity of making his own way did not discourage him. He went to Knoxville College, Knoxville, Tenn., and after doing the required preparatory work passed to the college department, where he remained for two years. In the meantime he had secured a teacher's license and began teaching at Rome, Ga. He remained in the local work for ten years, five in Georgia, three in Tennessee, and two in Kentucky.

He was ordained to the full work of the Gospel ministry by the Anglo Baptist Church at Bristol, Tenn., in 1900.

When ready to begin his theological course he matriculated at Virginia Union University, from which he was graduated with the B. D. degree in 1900. He also has the D. D. degree from the same institution. In 1898 he accepted a call from the Zion Baptist Church, Phoebus. For twenty years he has gone in and out before that congregation and has declined numerous calls which the growing prosperity of his work at Phoebus has brought him.

More than three thousand members have been added to the church under his administration. He enjoys the distinction of having baptized five hundred nineteen persons on one day, Dec. 24, 1908. The writer knows of no modern record which surpasses this.

Not only is Dr. Graham popular in his local field, but almost from the beginning of his ministry, he has enjoyed the confidence of the denomination and has for years been a prominent figure in denominational gatherings.

He was for seventeen years Moderator of the Norfolk Union Association, which is the largest district association in the State. For nineteen years he was Secretary of the Baptist General Association of Virginia and has for two years been the efficient Corresponding Secretary of the Lott Carey Foreign Mission Convention. In the interest of this work he has traveled over America and the West Indies. His contributions to the religious press are read with inter-



est. He is also a trustee of Virginia Union University and of the Tidewater Institute on the Eastern Shore.

On September 18, 1902, Dr. Graham was married to Miss Florence Isham, a daughter of William Isham of Richmond. Mrs. Graham was educated at Richmond and was, before her marriage, an accomplished teacher. They have four children, Archie A., William W., James I., and Sanford Graham.

Dr. Graham is a man of fine physique and has stood well the strain of the years. He is an effective speaker and seeks always to present a plain gospel attractively and intelligently. He lives among his people the same gospel he preaches, and thus his influence enhances with the years.

He believes the permanent progress of the race must rest on such fundamentals as "better educational and social conditions, housing, sanitation, justice in the courts, full and impartial treatment in property rights."

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## JOHN HILLYER ASHBY

Rev. John Hillyer Ashby, who for nearly a dozen years has been pastor of the Shiloh Baptist Church, of Norfolk, is one of those sterling, self-made men who rise steadily from poverty and obscurity to positions of leadership in spite of all the difficulties by which they may be confronted.

Mr. Ashby was born at Williamsburg on the York County side, on January 10, 1875, and grew up in this historic environment. His ancestors were all free-born. His father, William Ashby, was a son of Wm. and Maria Ashby, and his mother, Sarah Ashby, was a daughter of Henry and Mary Gary.

As a boy, he attended the local public school and was converted at the age of eleven. He worked on the farm in summer and on the river during oyster season. Early in life, he became active in the work of the church and Sunday School, and was licensed to preach by the First Baptist Church of Newport News in 1905. During the same year, he was appointed State Deputy of the True Reformers of

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**JOHN HILLYER ASHBY**

the State of Georgia, with headquarters at Savannah. While living in that city, he served as supplemental pastor of the Second Baptist Church by which he was ordained to the full work of the ministry upon recommendation of his home church. Prior to this, however, he had taken the academic course at Hampton and pursued his studies, including theology, through correspondence and by private tutors.

After leaving Hampton, he secured an appointment as custodian of the City Hall at Newport News, which position he held continuously for six years.

Though impressed with the idea that he should preach the Gospel, he preferred to devote himself to other lines, and began reading law. He pursued this course for two years. His Blackstone opened up the Bible to him in such a way, however, that he finally decided to go back to original sources. He sold his "Commentaries," invested the proceeds in the best Bible he could find, abandoned the idea of law practice, surrendered himself to the Divine leadership, and entered upon the work of the ministry. The character of his work has proven that he made no mistake as to his true vocation.

Returning from Savannah after about a year in Georgia, he accepted the call of the First Baptist Church of Williamsburg, which he served for three years. This is one of the historic old churches, not only of the denomination, but of the race in America and had good growth under his leadership. From Williamsburg he was called to the Shiloh Baptist Church in 1909. Here the house of worship has been rebuilt during his pastorate, at an expense of \$10,000.00 and every department of the work has moved without friction. He has for seven years served Ebenezer Baptist Church in Southampton County and enjoys the distinction of never having had any friction or irruptions in any of his pastorates.

He is a man who thinks for himself and endeavors to lead his people along constructive lines. His worth as a leader has been recognized by the local Association and by

the State organizations as well. He is Moderator of the Tidewater and Peninsula Association, a body composed of about seventy churches and which, under his leadership, is contributing more for education than any other association in the State. He has also for a number of years been Chairman of the State Mission Board of the Virginia State Baptist Convention. He was at one time prominent in the work of the True Reformers but now carries regular insurance. Among the secret orders he is identified with the Masons. During the world war he was active in all the campaigns and was in demand as a speaker for his race.

As a young man, he decided to own his home. His first was at Williamsburg, and was purchased at the sacrifice of some rather elaborate wedding plans. He never regretted this. That property was sold and the proceeds reinvested in Norfolk and that in turn was sold and its value reappeared in a modern, well equipped residence on Washington Street where he resides.

On April 10, 1900, Mr. Ashby was married to Miss Frances S. Scott, of Rock Castle, Va. They have been blessed with a fine family of eight children, Stanley E., Geraldine V., Madeline S., Carl G., Sarah L., Frances E., Theresa C., and Aubrey C. Ashby.

Mr. Ashby speaks and writes freely to his people and to the White race. He believes that his race should be given a free hand in the matter of education, and that they should then assume the responsibility of training their own people and working out their own destiny, without fear or favor.

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## EDWARD DAVID HOWE

The real leaders of both races in the South long ago recognized the fact that any worth while or lasting progress must be based on intelligence. Neither politics, business nor religion can be counted on to solve our problems in an atmosphere of ignorance. So it comes to pass that in a Democracy the educator is a key man and the race is debtor to

**EDWARD DAVID HOWE**

those self sacrificing men and women who are devoting their lives to the training of the young and those who are to teach the young.

Among these must be mentioned Prof. Edward David Howe, Principal of the Manassas Industrial Institute for Colored Youth, located at Manassas, Virginia. He is a native of Lynchburg, where he was born on Feb. 29, 1864. His parents were Jesse D. and Maria N. Howe. His paternal grandparents were David and Lucy Howe. On the maternal side his grandparents were Carter and Mary Lucas.

Prof. Howe has been married twice. His first marriage was on Nov. 18, 1896, to Miss Lena Webster of Catlett, Va. She bore him two children, Hobart and Lena, and passed away on July 20, 1902. Subsequently, on June 28, 1905, he was married to Miss Pattie L. Lewis of Manassas. Mrs. Howe was educated at Howard University and is herself an accomplished teacher. They have four children, William J., Stephen E., Mentor A., and Eva L. Howe.

Prof. Howe laid the foundation of his education in the public schools of Bristersburg and passed from there to the Va. Normal and Collegiate Institute at Petersburg, completing the course in 1889.

From his youth up Prof. Howe has been a hard worker. As a boy he worked on the farm. Later he learned carpentry and used that as a means of helping himself through school. A part of his vacation time was devoted to selling books and nursery stock. After completing his normal course at Petersburg he also took a business course at Buffalo Business College.

His first work as a teacher was in Fauquier County in 1888, at a point known as Sowego, where he later taught successfully sixteen years. He owns a farm at this place improved by an attractive dwelling and other buildings. He was instrumental in getting the above name approved and a post office established. His greatest literary work was published in 1891, entitled "The Vital Question," a treatise on the public school system, its defection and the remedy. He was principal of the Leesburg graded school

for two years, after which he went to Lawrenceville, N. J., and rendered efficient service in the Lawrenceville Preparatory School for two years.

In 1907, under Civil Service appointment he was assigned to the Bureau of Printing and Engraving, Washington, D. C., where he remained for thirteen years. In January, 1920, he was called to the important work at the historic old town of Manassas and on the ground marked and torn by the struggle which was to bring freedom to his race, he is working faithfully for that larger freedom which comes with knowledge only. He is no stranger to this enterprise, having worked with the founder of the school in the effort to secure the institution for Manassas. The school is prospering under his administration and requires a faculty of seventeen. One of the summer schools maintained by the State for rural school teachers is held here, and is attended in large numbers by the teachers in the northern half of the State.

Prof. Howe has been and is an extensive reader and has found great help and inspiration in books. His favorite lines of reading are biography, poetry and general history. In politics he is a Republican and at an earlier age was rather active in the councils of the party. He was a delegate to the National Republican Convention in Minneapolis, Minn., 1892. He is an active member of the Baptist Church in which he has served as clerk and deacon. He was for many years Supt. of the S. S. and for twenty-two years secretary for the Northern Va. Baptist Sunday School Convention, the largest and most influential Sunday School organization in that section.

After years of contact with and study of conditions, Prof. Howe is of the opinion that the progress and prosperity of the race depend on two fundamental things. The first is the right sort of education and the second is economic thrift. He believes in educating the heart no less than the head and giving training to the hand no less than the mind. His one great ideal in education is to make men and women become more useful in community welfare, and

better citizens in the commonwealth. He believes that every child, irrespective of race, creed or color, should be given an equal opportunity to obtain an elementary education; be trained into thrift and industry, and be fully protected in his personal and property rights, under the administrative authority of both State and Nation.

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## THOMAS NEVILLE AUSTIN

Entering upon the Christian life early, Rev. Thomas Neville Austin, now (1921) stationed at Harrisonburg, has devoted his best years to the Gospel ministry.

He is a native of Wythe County, having been born at Ivanhoe on March 8, 1880. His father was Rev. Thomas Austin, and his mother, before her marriage, was Phyllis Scott.

While our subject was still a mere child the family moved to Lynchburg, and it was there the boy laid the foundation of his education. He did his literary work at a branch of Morgan College, Lynchburg, and went to Howard University for his theological work. He finished at Lynchburg in 1901 and in 1908 completed his course at Howard. He taught for four years in his native town of Ivanhoe.

Having been converted at the early age of thirteen he was called to preach at sixteen and granted exhorter's license at eighteen. He joined the Conference in 1908 at Baltimore, under Bishop Daniel A. Goodsell.

The following year, on Sept. 8, 1909, he was happily married to Miss Bessie T. McKinney, a daughter of Samuel and Della McKinney of Washington. They have one child, Thomas N. Austin, Jr.

As a boy young Austin lacked means and had hard enough struggle to get an education. He was greatly helped and inspired by the stories and examples of the men who had struggled up from places of obscurity to places of leadership.



THOMAS NEVILLE AUSTIN

After joining the Conference in 1908 he was sent to the Lincoln charge, where he remained four years. During the quadrennium he erected two new houses of worship. He went from there to the Salem Station, which he served three years and did considerable repairing. His next appointment was the Hall's Hill Circuit, which he served five years with success, paying debts and repairing the church property. In 1920, he went to Harrisonburg, where he serves the John Wesley Station. The work has prospered under his administration.

In politics he is a Republican. He belongs to the St. Lukes, the Odd Fellows, and the Masons. His reading runs to the English and American classics. During the war he took part in all the campaigns and drives, doing a noble part in them all.

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## CHARLES HENRY JOHNSON

The world owes much to the quiet unassuming men in every walk of life who, when they find their places in life, go quietly and faithfully about their work without any blowing of trumpets. Such men constitute the best asset of any community. Should such a man be a minister of the Gospel, he seeks to magnify the work rather than himself and is a tower of strength to his denomination. He usually has long pastorates.

All this and more may be said of Rev. Charles Henry Johnson, D. D., pastor of the Lee Street Baptist Church of Bristol, Va.

Dr. Johnson is one of those efficient, effective workers in the kingdom whose most enduring monument must ever be in the hearts of the people. He is a native of Culpeper County, where he was born, as nearly as he can ascertain, on Feb. 17, 1859. His parents were Henry and Sarah Johnson.

Our subject does not remember ever to have seen his father, as the war came on while he was still an infant,

**CHARLES HENRY JOHNSON**

and the mother and child refugeed to Lynchburg. His mother worked about the house and it was her former owners who taught young Johnson till he was thirteen years of age. In fact he reckons the early influence which they exerted on him as the most potent of his early life. At the early age of thirteen he "chose that good part" and gave his heart to God. He joined the Court St. Baptist Church, Lynchburg, and before he was twenty had consecrated his life to the work of the ministry. This brought to him a realization of the need of better education and preparation.

Accordingly he worked steadily for several years at Lynchburg and after providing a place for his mother, entered what is now Virginia Union University. Here he carried on both his literary and theological work, which he completed in 1883. Since that time the degree of D. D. has been conferred on him.

His first work after leaving school was that of State Missionary of the Virginia Baptist State Sunday School Convention, which position he held for five years. He was then called to take charge of the work at Bristol, Va. He accepted and went to that field in 1890. For thirty-one years he has gone in and out before that congregation and it is safe to say there is no more popular Baptist preacher in Southwest Virginia than Dr. Johnson.

On coming to Bristol it was found necessary to repair the house of worship. Later an entirely new brick structure was erected in an attractive part of the city and is now (1921) worth at a conservative estimate \$40,000.00. During that time six hundred sixty-five persons have been baptized into the membership of the church and altogether eight hundred eighty-seven members received.

Dr. Johnson soon made a place for himself in the denominational gatherings. For fifteen years he has been Moderator of the Schaefer Memorial Association and was for twelve years President of the District Sunday School Convention. He is Vice-President of the Baptist General Asso-

ciation of Virginia and Vice-President of the State Sunday School Convention.

In politics he is a Republican and among the secret orders belongs to the Odd Fellows.

On July 31, 1889, Dr. Johnson was married to Miss Winnie L. Branch of Lynchburg. They have five living children, who have been given the best educational advantages. The oldest, Chas. S., resides in Chicago, having attended Chicago University. He is engaged in inter-racial work and is doing research work under appointment by Governor Lowden. Morris E. is now principal of the school at Bristol. Sarah L. and Julia M. are students at Hartshorn College, while the youngest, Lillie Ida, is still at home.

Dr. Johnson, out of a rich experience of years, concludes that religion and education are the fundamentals of progress for the race.

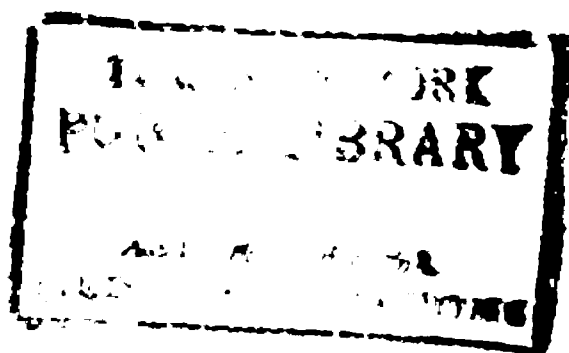
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## JAMES ALBERT HARRELL

A conspicuous figure among the Baptist c'ergymen of Eastern Virginia is the Rev. Dr. James Albert Harrell, now pastor of the First Baptist Church of Suffolk, Va. Dr. Harrell is in the prime of his years, having been born at Corapeake, Gates County, N. C., on Nov. 15, 1873. His parents were Henry and Hagar Harrell. His paternal grandmother was Classie Hinton. His maternal grandparents were Abraham and Mary Parker. Dr. Harrell had the good fortune to be born long enough after the war to miss those terribly hard years immediately after the great conflict. The schools, it is true, had not then come to any great degree of perfection, but at least a fair start had been made.

As a boy he took his turn on the farm. He recalls with pride that he was an exceptional cotton picker. The daily task was 180 pounds, and he frequently picked 325 pounds, putting the pay received for the surplus into getting an edu-

**JAMES ALBERT HARRELL**



cation. He feels much indebted to his faithful and prayerful mother for his educational success.

His first training was in the public schools, thence to St. Paul's Normal and Industrial School at Lawrenceville, Va., thence to Virginia Union University at Richmond, Va., where he won the degree of B. D. in 1904. He supplemented his college course with courses in the Afro-American School of Correspondence. The degree of D. D. evidences both his work and attainments. He was licensed to preach by Zion Tabernacle Baptist Church, near his old home, Corapeake, N. C., in 1895, and duly ordained on July 30, 1896. So that he was in the regular ministry for eight years before receiving his first college degree.

His ministerial career has been extremely active. Beginning at South Mills, N. C., he spent six years and repaired the church, then to Second Baptist Church, Edenton, N. C., for two years, then First Baptist Church, Roper, N. C., four years and repaired the church and at the same time and for the same term he was pastor of St. James, Elizabeth City, N. C.

At that time he also served as Dean of the Theological Department of Roanoke Collegiate Institute at Elizabeth City. In 1911 he was called to the First Baptist Church of Suffolk, Va., where he yet remains at this writing (1920) and where he has building plans under way for a new house of worship.

Like so many of our present day colored preachers he has found it necessary to spend much time teaching, and he figures that during his career he has put in twelve years in the school room and sixteen years preaching. He frequently carried along the work of both at the same time.

But his main work has not absorbed all his energy. Official positions have made extensive demands upon him. At this time he is Moderator of the Sharon Baptist Association; Treasurer Home Mission Board of Virginia State Convention; Chairman Benefit Board National Baptist Convention; Chairman Executive Board Sharon Baptist S. S. Convention, and Vice-President of the Phoenix Bank of Suffolk.



For four years he was President of Nansemond Collegiate Institute, a Baptist Associational School at Suffolk.

It will be seen that Dr. Harrell's life is one of immense activity. He has traveled extensively in our own country. He gives credit to the Bible as the greatest factor in shaping his life and found his most profitable reading in his early years the Life of Booker T. Washington and works on Intellectual Science.

He is a Republican in politics and affiliated with the Masons, Odd Fellows, Good Samaritans and other orders.

Nov. 14, 1897, Dr. Harrell was married to Miss Mary A. Palmer of Palmer's Springs, Va. Mrs. Harrell passed to her reward on Oct. 5, 1900, leaving him one son, James Edward Harrell, now a young man. On Aug. 3, 1905, he was again married, to Miss Ollie E. Graves, a daughter of W. P. and Caroline Graves. Mrs. Harrell was educated at Shaw University and, prior to her marriage, was an accomplished teacher.

Dr. Harrell is one of those valuable citizens and preachers whom the Old North State is in these days contributing to the Old Dominion. He would have been conspicuous in any line, for he has business qualifications which if devoted to money making would have made him rich—but preferring his present work who can doubt that he chose the better and more useful part?

During the nine years he has been the pastor of the First Baptist Church of Suffolk marvelous progress has been made. Being a man of culture, refinement, tact and ability as well as a man of God he has found a large place in the hearts of his people. He has the love, admiration and respect of the better element of both races, and is doing a work the import of which can only be revealed by eternity.

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## DANIEL WEBSTER PALMER

Dr. Daniel Webster Palmer, the only colored physician now practicing at Cape Charles, Va., is another one of those sturdy North Carolinians who, by his steady perseverance

DANIEL WEBSTER PALMER

and hard work, has made for himself a prominent place in the professional and social life of his people on the Eastern Shore. He was the first colored doctor on the Eastern Shore.

All his life he has been a hard worker and even as a school boy showed those qualities of endurance and reliability which endeared him to his teachers and opened up opportunities for making his way in life. From early boyhood he was dependent on his own resources.

He was born at Henderson, N. C., on April 15, 1879. His mother was Lucy Palmer and his grandparents were George and Jane Washington.

As a boy young Palmer attended the Henderson Normal Institute till he was fourteen years of age. His professors observing his struggles and the assiduity with which he applied himself, advised him to go North, where he would have larger earning capacity and at the same time be able to go to school. He went to Pennsylvania and worked on dairy farms for six years, three years at one place and three at another. This necessitated rising at four o'clock in the morning winter and summer, but it also gave the boy the much desired opportunity of carrying on his studies which he did at the academy at Darlington, Pa. At that time he was the only colored student that attended the school and graduated with honors. Later he changed from dairying and went to the coal bank. Here he would make a full day and then run the electric light plant till midnight. That he did this work faithfully and well is evidenced by the fact that after entering medical college, he returned to the same job each summer.

When ready for his medical course he matriculated at Leonard Medical College, where he won his M. D. degree in 1904.

In that same year he began the practice at Cape Charles, where he has since resided. He has been at Cape Charles for seventeen years and has built up a practice of which he may well be proud.

On Dec. 28, 1907, Dr. Palmer was happily married to Miss Olive Edwards of Salisbury, N. C. Mrs. Palmer was educated at Livingstone College and was, before her marriage, a successful teacher.

Dr. Palmer's professional work has been of such character as to bring him into cordial relationship with the white physicians.

During the Flu epidemic the records show that he made the best record of any physician on the Eastern Shore, out of four hundred sixty cases he lost only two.

Dr. Palmer is a member of the Baptist Church. He is a Mason, a Pythian and a member of St. Lukes. He belongs to the Old Dominion, the National and the Tidewater Medical Societies. He is medical examiner for several of the secret orders and insurance companies.

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## HENRY GRANT WOOD

For nearly twenty years Dr. Henry Grant Wood of South Boston has been working away with characteristic zeal and energy at his chosen profession of medicine. There is nothing sensational about Dr. Wood or his methods. Quietly and efficiently he has devoted himself to his work, has established a home, takes his place in the church and, as a good citizen, enters into the social and business life of his people.

He is a native of Mecklenburg County, Va., having been born at Clarksville on Nov. 28, 1869. His parents were Jesse and Sarah Wood. Having emerged from slavery only a few years before the birth of Dr. Wood the parents were not in position to endow him with much of this world's goods. They did what was better, they bequeathed to him a good name and inspired in his young mind an ambition for the right sort of living and a career that would make his life larger and more fruitful than theirs had been. To this good day Dr. Wood remembers with gratitude the influence they exerted on his life.

He went to the local public school and later attended the Boynton Institute, which has contributed so much to the

**HENRY GRANT WOOD**

intellectual life of that part of Virginia. After completing his work at Boydton, young Wood went to the Petersburg Normal Industrial and Collegiate Institute. When able to secure a teacher's license he began teaching in the schools of his home county and taught regularly between 1887 and 1897. In this way he earned money for the beginning of his medical course, which was begun at Leonard Medical College, where he spent one year. From there he went to Howard University for the completion of his course and won his M. D. degree in 1901. During the years covered by his medical course, he spent his summers in hotel work at the popular summer resorts North and East. In this way he was able to complete his course without a break.

In 1902, Dr. Wood located at South Boston, where he has since resided. He has built up a good general practice.

Dr. Wood is a member of the Baptist Church. In politics he is a Republican. He belongs to the Masons and is medical examiner for a number of local lodges and insurance companies. He holds membership in both the Old Dominion and the National Medical Societies.

On April 20, 1898, Dr. Wood was happily married to Miss Sallie A. Davenport of Lynchburg. She was educated at the seminary there and is an accomplished woman and a skilful teacher.

Dr. Wood is a close and intelligent observer of conditions among his people and believes the greatest need of the race is education which can only be had by better school facilities.

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## ROBERT JACKSON LANGSTON

One of the forceful, efficient young men of the Baptist denomination who, in recent years, has come to the front in both religious and educational work in Virginia, is Rev. Robert Jackson Langston, A. B., B. D., former pastor of the Bank Street Church of Norfolk and now (1921) President of the Smallwood Corey Industrial and Collegiate Institute at Claremont.

Dr. Langtson was born in Nansemond County on July 17, 1879. His ancestors were all free born and were land owners long before the close of the war. His father, Jesse B. Langston, was a shoemaker, and was the son of Lot and Sarah Langston. His mother, before her marriage, was Miss Araminta Lee Smith, a daughter of A. J. and Zilphia (Lee) Smith.

Young Langston grew up on the Nansemond County farm and laid the foundation of his education in the short term schools then available.

Incidentally he learned to do all sorts of farm work and developed a strong body, which is standing well the strain of manhood's work and responsibilities. He remained on the farm till he was twenty-one years of age.

Even in the early days of his boyhood he felt that his work in life would be that of the Gospel ministry. After he was converted and joined the church at sixteen years of age this early conviction grew into a definite call to preach from which he could not escape.

In 1900 he was licensed by the Mineral Springs Baptist Church and had the good judgment to prepare himself for the real work of life. Accordingly he entered Virginia Union University, where he did both his preparatory and college work. He won his A. B. degree in 1910, and during the next two years did the three years work of the theological course and so won his B. D. degree in 1912.

He was ordained to the full work of the ministry in 1907 and entered upon the active work of the pastorate before he was through school.

His first pastorate was the Macedonia Baptist Church of Spottsylvania County, which he served for two and a half years. The membership was more than doubled and a house of worship erected at a cost of eighteen hundred dollars. He preached at Shiloh, Ashland, three years and remodeled the building. This is the oldest colored Baptist Church in that historic old county. He served the Grafton Church at Lot for six years and had good growth. In the meantime in 1914, he organized and established in Middle-





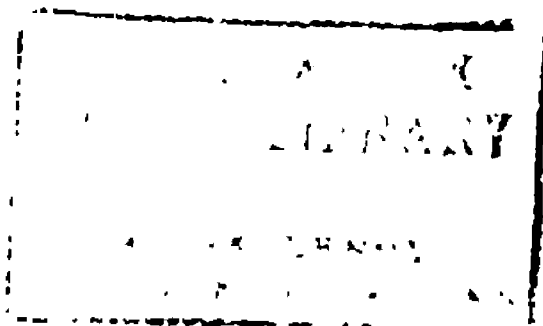


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sex County what has come to be the Langston Training School, an institution which has a faculty of five and is doing splendid work.

In 1916 he was called to the Bank Street Baptist Church at Norfolk, which he served till the close of 1920. Here the man and the opportunity were fairly met and Dr. Langston acquitted himself in a manner to leave the membership grateful and the work a monument to his energy and capacity.

Finding the work disorganized and encumbered with a debt of \$27,500.00, he went to work, reorganized his forces, bought an organ at a cost of \$5,000.00 and reduced the indebtedness to \$7,000.00. Under his leadership the membership grew from about four hundred to nine hundred.

In 1920 the Baptist General Association of Virginia acquired the Smallwood School at Claremont and merged with it the Corey Institute, under the name of Smallwood Corey Industrial and Collegiate Institute. The plant, which is one of the best in the State, is situated at Claremont on the James and is worth a quarter of a million dollars. By one of the strange ironies of history the school is on the site of the landing of the second cargo of Negro slaves brought to America.

The denominational leaders recognized in Dr. Langston the logical man for the presidency of this great denominational institution and it is gratifying to record that the first year's work has been most encouraging. Already the school has a bigger enrollment than the combined enrollment of both predecessors.

The faculty numbers nine and the board of trustees and officials of the school are enthusiastic at the outlook. All predict for Dr. Langston a brilliant career as head of the school.

On May 9, 1907, Dr. Langston was married to Miss Eulalia Tancil, a daughter of Dr. R. F. and Mary Tancil of Richmond. Mrs. Langston was educated at Richmond and was before her marriage a teacher. They have four children, Robt. J., Jr., Vivian E., Richard T. and Mary A. Langston.

Dr. Langston is a popular figure in denominational gatherings, is a fluent and attractive speaker and is in demand on public and anniversary occasions.

In the General Association, he is a member of the State Mission Board, the Educational Board and the Bible and Publication Board, he is also active in the Lott Carey Convention.

He believes that the progress of the race depends on industrial training, consolidation of interests in the form of corporations and enterprises and the cultivation of respect for American citizenship and veracity.

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## EDWARD PRINCE JACKSON

The Rev. Edward Prince Jackson, D. D., of Covington, Virginia, was born in Nelson County, Virginia, Nov. 13, 1868, son of Samuel and Lucy Trotter Jackson. Sam Jackson was a farmer. His grandarents were Gabriel and Flora Jackson and Ned and Cecilia Trotter. All were slaves except the maternal grandfather, who was a free man and saw military service during the Mexican War.

Reared on the farm and attending public schools in his youth, arriving at years of discretion, young Jackson wanted an education, but was in poor circumstances and lacked opportunity for making money. Fortunately he attracted the attention of Professors Goode and Jeffries of Greenbrier College, Alderson, W. Va. (a white school), and through the kindly offices of those good men was able to get five years of instruction in their school. He also had two years in Attucks College, a colored institution at Pittsburg.

Mr. Jackson was converted when he was about fifteen years of age and two years later was called to preach. He was ordained by the St. Hebron Baptist Church in Nelson County in 1878. He has served a number of churches. He preached at Covington for six years and built a new house of worship. In Pittsburgh he preached for seven years and paid off the debt, then he went to Pine Street for sixteen

**EDWARD PRINCE JACKSON**

years, paid the debt and saw the membership grow from twenty to two hundred thirty. He served the church at Greenwood, W. Va., for seventeen years and preached at Locust Bottom four years and at Alderson ten years, building a new house at the latter place.

He has done considerable revival work and is Statistician for the Berean Baptist Association.

After beginning his ministerial work Dr. Jackson studied law under Mr. W. E. Allen of Covington, and later became President of the Eureka Native Herb Co., Inc., of Montgomery, W. Va., manufacturers of herb remedies, and still retains that position. However, he has never permitted these outside interests to absorb too much time as he regards the ministry as his real vocation in life.

He is married. Mrs. Jackson was Otelia Mickens, daughter of Harry C. and Rose Mickens. They have four children, Lorraine P., Oneida L., Edward Clay, and Macilia Jackson.

Looking back over his life Dr. Jackson considers that the most potent factor in shaping it was the advice and influence of his mother.

In our own country he has been quite a bit of a traveler, having resided for more or less time in five different States.

His reading has been chiefly along theological and legal lines. A Republican in politics he takes an active interest during political campaigns in a public speaking way.

Dr. Jackson is strongly impressed that the best means of promoting the interest of his race is by widespread organization and thus by combining their strength they may hope to obtain those things which are essential to their well being and progress.

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## WILLIAM ALVAH NOWLIN

There is nothing finer than to see a boy in his tender years find his place and with courage and fidelity set out to equip himself for his work. Such a man avoids many of

WILLIAM ALVAH NOWLIN AND WIFE



the mistakes made by him who merely drifts through boyhood and youth.

The career of Rev. William Alvah Nowlin, A. B., B. D., of Danville, illustrates the importance of beginning early. He was born at Spring Mills in Campbell County on Oct. 10, 1897. His father, Rev. Benjamin S. Nowlin, was also a Baptist preacher. He was the son of Washington and Mildred Nowlin. The mother of our subject was Lena (Hancock) Nowlin, a daughter of William and Ellen Hancock.

Young Nowlin grew up on the farm in Campbell County, where he divided his time between the farm and Bradley's graded school. When a mere boy of ten he gave his heart to God and at a very early age felt called to preach the Gospel. He began preaching in his teens and was licensed by the St. Luke Baptist Church at sixteen. He was ordained to the full work of the ministry Aug. 4, 1917. He did both his literary and theological work at the Virginia Seminary and College at Lynchburg, winning his A. B. and B. D. degrees in 1919. He made an enviable record as a student. His parents were not able financially to assist him so he made his own way in college mainly by hotel work during his summer vacations.

Even before completing his course at Lynchburg he began the regular work of the pastorate. The first church to call him was Mt. Calvary in Campbell County, where he preached for two years. He served the Beverly Manor Baptist Church in Augusta County one year and at the same time was preaching at the First Baptist Church, Hollins, Va. In the spring of 1920 he accepted the call of the High Street Baptist Church of Danville and came to the work in July of the same year. Already (1921) the church has responded to his enthusiasm and intelligent leadership.

On June 24, 1920, Dr. Nowlin was happily married to Miss Marie E. Brown, a daughter of William and Celia Brown of Pittsburgh, Pa. Mrs. Nowlin, like her husband, was educated at Virginia Seminary and College and was before

her marriage an accomplished teacher. She enters heartily into the work of her husband.

Dr. Nowlin is secretary of the ministers' conference of Danville and is a member of the board of Providence Hospital. In politics he is a Republican.

Naturally he gives first place in his reading to the Bible. After that he has a fondness for the literature dealing with the history and achievements of the race. Looking back over his boyhood and youth Dr. Nowlin is of the opinion that the greatest factors in shaping his life have been "belief in God, in self and in the possibilities of my race."

He is of the opinion that the progress of the race depends on the intelligent exercise of the franchise and the owning and operating of enterprises by members of the race.

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## LEON WASHINGTON SMITH

Both the business and professional life of the Old Dominion has been greatly enriched by the influx of young men from the Old North State. Especially is this true of the southern and eastern parts of the State. One of these sons of North Carolina who has made his mark in Virginia is Dr. Leon Washington Smith of South Boston, Va.

Dr. Smith is a native of Wake Co., N. C., where he was born April 17, 1878. His father, Eli Smith, a farmer, is still living (1921). He is a son of Len Smith, who is still living and active at the remarkable old age of one hundred and ten. Dr. Smith's mother, Sally (Hall) Smith, was a daughter of Betsy and Furnie Hall.

Dr. Smith grew up on the Wake County farm and divided his time between the country public schools and work about the place. Vigorous and robust from boyhood, he grew to be a powerful man physically.

After he was twenty he changed his work from the farm to hotel service and in this way helped himself through college. For his literary work he went to Shaw University, and for his medical course he went to Leonard Medical

LEON WASHINGTON SMITH AND WIFE

College of the same institution, where he won his M. D. degree in 1902.

In 1903 he went to the old town of Smithfield, Va., where he practiced for two years. In 1905 he moved to South Boston, where he has since resided and where he has built up a good general practice.

On Sept. 9, 1915, Dr. Smith was happily married to Miss Annie M. Jeffress of Charlotte County. She was a daughter of Conway and Eliza Jeffress and was educated at Hampton Institute.

Dr. Smith is a member of the Old Dominion and the National Medical Societies. He belongs to the Baptist Church in which he is active, being at this time on the building committee of his local church. In politics he is a Republican and among the secret orders is identified with the Pythians and with the G. W. O. of Moses. He is medical director for the latter and medical examiner for a number of insurance companies. Looking back over the days of his youth, Dr. Smith recognizes the potent influence for good on his life, of his parents. He was also inspired by Mr. D. P. Lane, a Raleigh lawyer.

Dr. Smith has studied not only natural and physical conditions among his people, but knows their intellectual capacity as well. He believes that progress awaits better school facilities.

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## EDGAR ALLAN LONG

Professor Edgar Allan Long, Principal of the Christiansburg Industrial Institute, Cambria, Va., is what old Thomas Carlyle would have called a "heaven born teacher." Prof. Long is one of Booker Washington's "boys" and is reflecting great credit on that remarkable man who was not only his teacher but also most largely furnished the inspiration which has been the principal factor in shaping his life. His influence in educational and social welfare work in Virginia has been of great value. He reorganized the State

Teachers' Association and was for six years its president; he is a charter member and Secretary of the Negro Organization Society, which has done more than any single movement in the State to stimulate interest in better health, better homes, better schools and better farms among his people.

Prof. Long was born at Tuskegee, Ala., Oct. 8, 1871. He is a son of Orange and Lila (Howard) Long. His father was a hotel cook by occupation.

Growing up at Tuskegee, the location of Washington's great school, he went through the public schools and later entered the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute. Entering the night school he worked until he had earned enough to pay his way through the day school. While at Tuskegee, in addition to the academic courses, he learned the printing trade, which has been most useful to him through his life. Graduating from Tuskegee in 1895, he went immediately to the Penny Savings Bank at Birmingham as bookkeeper, at the same time acting as manager for the Alabama Publishing Co., which concern published "Baptists of Alabama," by C. O. Boothe, "Divinity in Wedlock," by W. R. Pittiford, and other publications.

In 1897 he entered the teaching field as Treasurer of the Christiansburg Industrial Institute and later became principal. This was an old school founded in 1866 by Captain Charles S. Schaeffer, a Civil War Veteran and a lover of humanity, who gave the remainder of his life to the work of aiding the Freedmen of that section.

An organization composed of members of the Society of Friends, known as the Friends' Freedmens' Association began helping the school in 1869 with an appropriation of two hundred dollars, and in 1873 began yearly appropriations. From that time to the present that Society has been steadfast in the school's support and the present Board of Managers is composed of prominent Friends of Philadelphia and vicinity.

Notwithstanding conscientious and faithful effort and much good work the school did not grow rapidly and when



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W. V. Long





Prof. Long came to it in 1897 its equipment consisted of one building, a substantial brick, midway between Christiansburg and Cambria, with about one acre of land. This building, situated on a hill top, is known as the "Hill School" and remains a part of the plant.

Believing that the best future for the Negro race lies chiefly along agricultural lines, Prof. Long promptly acquired a farm of 185 acres to which was moved in 1900 everything but the primary department. Here was erected the Bailey-Morris Hall used as Girl's Dormitory, Dining Room, Administration Building, and Library; the Boys' Dormitory, the Old Mansion refitted and used as a school building, Trades Building, substantial barn and teachers' cottages.

Farming occupies first place with the boys, in addition to which they are taught carpentry, blacksmithing, wheelwrighting and printing. Always the best of work is put in teaching them book knowledge.

For the girls there are special courses in cooking, laundering, sewing, millinery and always domestic economy, which we call housekeeping.

Situated in a rich country, the farm with its orchards and gardens, is a delight to the eye with its orderly neatness, thorough work and fat crops. Nearly one-half of the boarding supplies are raised on the farm, largely by student labor. Under Prof. Long, the plant has grown from one building with one acre of ground to eleven buildings and 185 acres of a total value of one hundred and fifty thousand dollars and an endowment of seventy thousand dollars. His first years expenses were \$1,875.00. In 1919 this had grown to \$23,500.00. Of the endowment fund the sum of \$50,000.00 was raised in one year, 1916.

Teaching only the primary grades twenty years ago, there is now a full high school course of four years with normal course for teachers. A largely attended and most successful summer normal is a feature of the work. The teaching force has grown from five to eighteen.

The concrete results are visible and the spiritual results are being felt over a large area.

The relations between the races have always been most friendly in this section and the county contributes a part of the funds for maintaining the primary department. For the community hospital situated on the school grounds the white people contributed \$2,500.00, and a local board of white and colored people operate it for colored people of the section.

Prof. Long was married Dec. 23, 1897 to Miss Anne Lee Patterson, daughter of Edward and Anna Patterson of Montgomery. Mrs. Long was educated at Tuskegee and is also an accomplished teacher.

They have five children, Edgar Allan, Jr., Gertrude Irene, Nerissa Lila, Audrey Lee, and Natalie Mildred Long.

Prof. Long holds the degree of Master of Pedagogy, conferred by Biddle University. It was honestly won.

He is a rather wide reader, loving biography, fiction, poetry, being especially partial to Bryant, Pope and Poe. He has written some poems of merit. A letter from the late Booker T. Washington stated: "The poem by you published in the Tuskegee Student, does you a great deal of credit, and shows you have talent in that direction." He is an Independent Republican in politics and a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

A capable business man, he has managed after caring for a large family, to accumulate a substantial property. He considers, "Education, ownership of property, and substantial Christian character as the things necessary for permanent progress."

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## MARCELLUS CARLYLE RUX

The successful conduct of a secondary denominational school requires a man of unusual ability. He must be a teacher, he must have executive ability, for many of his problems are business problems; he must also be an at-

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**MARCELLUS CARLYLE RUX**

tractive speaker in order that the interests of the institution may not suffer before associations and conventions. It is not strange that so many of the small denominational schools either fail to prosper or have to be discontinued.

The Bluestone Harmony Academic and Industrial School at Keysville is fortunate in having at the head of it a man who combines the qualities referred to above. That man is Rev. Marcellus Carlye Rux.

He is a native of Meherrin, where he was born on Jan. 8, 1882. His father, David Rux, was a farmer. His mother, before her marriage, was Miss Bettie Ann Cheatham, a daughter of Green and Pattie Cheatham.

During his boyhood and youth, young Rux divided his time between the country public schools and work on his father's farm. When nine years of age he was converted and has been all his life active in the work of the church. Almost from childhood he was impressed with the feeling that he must preach.

In 1902 he was licensed to preach by the Rehobeth Baptist Church and in 1906 was ordained to the full work of the ministry by the same church. He realized early in life that the need of adequate preparation for his life work was imperative. Accordingly he went to the Petersburg Normal and Industrial School, where he completed his course in 1904. He passed from there to Virginia Union University, taking his theological course in advance of his literary work. He won his B. D. degree in 1907. In 1910 he finished his academic work and completed the college course with the A. B. degree in 1912.

Dr. Rux has been active both as a pastor and as an educator. He preached at the Springfield Baptist Church, Meherrin, five years; Middlesex one, Union at Keysville five years, Mt. Zion at Clarksville five years, and Siloam at Chase City five years. He is now (1921) pastoring Mt. Olive at South Boston and Mt. Ellis at Keysville. He has had a fruitful ministry, and was for five years Moderator of the Harmony Association. He is Statistical Secretary of the General Baptist Association of Virginia, he is a mem-

ber of the Foreign Mission Board, the Publication Board, and the Educational Board of the same body.

Mr. Rux has been identified with the Keysville School for eight years. For the first five years he was a teacher in the institution. Such was the record he made that he was promoted to the principalship in 1917. Under his administration the school has reached its highest enrollment and had its greatest period of prosperity. Buildings are being erected or improved and the faculty has been strengthened. One of the buildings being erected is a home for girls, which will cost \$15,000.00.

On Sept. 30, 1913, Mr. Rux was married to Miss Mattie E. Smith, a daughter of J. H. and Kate Smith of Meherrin. Mrs. Rux was educated at the Petersburg Normal and was, before her marriage, a teacher. They have one son, Marcus C. Rux, Jr.

Mr. Rux asks nothing for himself or his race which he is not willing to grant to every other man and every other race. He believes in equality of opportunity and simply wants his dollar to buy as much as any other man's dollar.

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## GEORGE WILLIAM C. BROWN

A history of the professional and vocational life of the race since Emancipation reveals some interesting facts. The profession which first attracted large numbers of the race was that of the ministry. In the early days of freedom, it must be said that it required but little intelligence to be a preacher. With the passing of the years, however, this condition has improved and today some of the strongest men of the race are to be found in the pulpit. Next in importance and in numbers, perhaps, came the teaching profession. This required slightly better equipment, and yet it was comparatively an easy matter to become a teacher in the backwoods schools. Fortunately, this condition has also improved. Later still, there was a tendency on the

**GEORGE WILLIAM CLEMENT BROWN**

part of some of the young colored men to go into the law. This profession has long been so closely allied to politics that with the passing of the Negro from Southern politics, many of the old time lawyers had to find some other occupation. As the colleges and universities began to turn out men who were really equipped for the work of life, the medical and dental professions began to attract some of the best and brightest young men of the race. Banking was a still later development. It has appealed not only to men of intelligence and equipment, but men of executive and organizing ability and men of means. There is at Norfolk and Portsmouth a remarkable group of these young men, engaged in banking and other commercial lines.

Among them must be mentioned George William Clement Brown. He is a native of Richmond, where he was born Sept. 23, 1894. His father is Rev. E. W. Brown, a story of whose life and work appears elsewhere in this volume. His mother, before her marriage, was Miss Nanette Ruffin Allen.

After attending the local public schools, young Brown went to Wayland Academy and passed from there to Virginia Union University, from which he was graduated with the A. B. degree in 1917. He found the influence of college and fraternity life most helpful. He took an active interest in college athletics while in school and was athletic press reporter for his institution. His favorite reading is applied psychology and philosophy. Naturally this tends much to modern business literature.

On November 29, 1919, Mr. Brown was happily married to Miss Elaine Hucles, a daughter of Henry B. and Ruth L. Hucles. They have one child, Yvette Elaine Brown.

On completion of his course at Richmond, Mr. Brown accepted a position as Assistant Secretary of the Corey Memorial Institute, that was in 1917. The following year he worked as a bookkeeper at the Mutual Savings Bank of Portsmouth. On June 9, 1919, he assumed the duties of Assistant Secretary of the Tidewater Bank & Trust Company of Norfolk, which he held till March 1, 1921. He is



Treasurer of the Consolidated Coal & Ice Company of Norfolk, is a director in the Commercial Bank & Trust Company of Richmond, and of the Twin City Amusement Corporation of Norfolk. In the spring of 1921, Mr. Brown was made Secy.-Treasurer of the Sea Board Finance Corporation. About the same time he was elected Secretary of the Hampton Roads Building and Loan Asso., with offices in Norfolk, Portsmouth and Newport News, Va.

In politics Mr. Brown is a Republican and is treasurer of the local organization. Like his father, he is a member of the Baptist Church. Among the secret and benevolent societies he is identified with the Pythians, Elks and Masons. He is president of the Zeta-Lambda chapter of the Alpha Phi Alpha Greek letter fraternity.

Mr. and Mrs. Brown enter heartily into the social life of the city. When asked his opinion as to how the best interests of the race may be promoted, Mr. Brown replied: "Intensive thrift campaigns must be vigorously propagated in every community. Every Negro, at the same time must be forced, if necessary, to use the ballot."

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## EUGENE JEREMIAH BASS

Dr. Eugene Jeremiah Bass, a successful druggist and business man of the prosperous city of Portsmouth, was born barely a year after the war, on April 14, 1866. His father was Southall Bass, a junk dealer of Portsmouth, who was a son of Willis and Sarah Bass. The mother of our subject, before her marriage, was Miss Mary O. Elliott, a daughter of Josiah and Jemima Elliott. There is a strain of white blood inherited from one side and a strain of Indian blood coming down from both sides, so that Dr. Bass represents a sort of trinity of races.

He was born at Portsmouth and has resided in that city all his life with the exception of the time he has been away at school.

EUGENE JEREMIAH BASS

He attended the Portsmouth public schools and passed from there to Shaw University for his professional course, winning from Leonard School of Pharmacy the Ph. G. degree in 1896. He had considerable practical experience in the drug business before going to college, having been in the Navy Yard Dispensary at Portsmouth for a number of years.

With the growing spirit of co-operation and with the increased purchasing power of the Negro, nothing is thought of the establishment of a drug store or of any other enterprise; but twenty-five years ago, when Dr. Bass began business in Portsmouth, it took a man of faith and of vision to launch a new business and stay by it through the starving time. That he was able to start and conduct a successful drug business at that early date in his home town is a compliment at once to his character and to his capacity. He is running the business under the name of the Eugene J. Bass Drug Store, of which he is the proprietor and manager.

On November 1, 1906, Dr. Bass was married to Miss Lizzie Small, of Holland, Virginia. They have three children, Eugene J., Jr., Ann E., and Rebecca O. Bass.

Dr. Bass has a younger brother also in the drug business, whose story appears elsewhere in this volume.

When asked how, in his opinion, the best interests of the race may be promoted, Dr. Bass replied that the thing most needed is Christian education.

Dr. Bass is a Republican in politics and is an active member of the A. M. E. Church, of which he is a trustee. Among the secret orders he is identified with the Pythians and other local organizations.

Being a sort of pioneer in the business life of his people in Portsmouth, he has naturally become interested in a number of other enterprises apart from his drug business. His wide acquaintance and his business experience have made him a valuable man in the starting and carrying on of new enterprises such as banks, stores, etc. He is a director in the Standard Building & Loan Association of

Portsmouth, a stockholder in the Mutual Savings Bank of the same city, he is also a stockholder in the Tidewater Bank & Trust Company of Norfolk, of the Twin City Amusement Corporation and the Progressive Shoe Store of Norfolk, and is financially interested in the Tidewater Building & Loan Association of Portsmouth. Dr. Bass is known as a safe and conservative business man and is regarded as a good citizen by the best people of both races.

He has the distinction of being the second man of his race to pass the Virginia Pharmaceutical Board.

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## ARTHUR LEONARD JAMES

A prominent minister of the Baptist Church in Virginia is the Rev. Arthur Leonard James, at this time (1920) pastor of the First Baptist Church at Roanoke. Though yet a comparatively young man Mr. James has to his credit a ministerial career of approximately twenty-five years which has been one of constantly growing reputation and increasing influence.

Arthur Leonard James was born at Madison, Fla., Aug. 1, 1877, son of Howard E. and Lula Wyche James. His father, Howard E. James, was a teacher. His maternal grandparents were Jacob and Edith Wyche.

After attending public schools at Madison and Live Oak, he entered the Florida Memorial College at Live Oak, where he graduated in 1897. After completing his course there, he extended his training at the University of Chicago.

His father had died when he was only five years old and hence he had to work his own way, which he did promptly and effectively.

Converted at fifteen and feeling the call to preach almost immediately, he began at sixteen to shape his studies with a view to the ministry.

He was licensed to preach by the African Baptist Church of Live Oak at such an early age that he was known as the

ARTHUR LEONARD JAMES

**"Boy Preacher"** and at twenty-one was ordained to the full ministry by the church at Madison.

His first pastorate was with the Damascus Baptist Church at Madison, his home town, where he remained two and one-half years, then he was called to the work of the Sunday School and State Missionary Board and as organizer of the B. Y. P. U. under the auspices of the National Baptist Publishing Board.

After one year at that work he was called to the Bethel Baptist Church of Daytona, Fla., where he remained eight years. During his term there he remodeled the church, built and paid for a parsonage and trebled the membership. He was then called to St. Luke's Church at Jacksonville, where he remained for nine months. He accepted a call to the New Zion Baptist Church, Fernandina, Fla., where in two years and nine months he reduced a heavy debt on the church to a very small sum. From there he went to Ocala, where he remained five years during which he paid for a parsonage and extinguished the church debt. While in Ocala he founded and edited *The Florida Messenger*, a newspaper of wide circulation and influence. February, 1918, found him in France engaged in war work, and he remained there one year. Returning to Florida he was with the War Work Council as State Secretary for Colored Y. M. C. A. work a few months, when he was called to the First Baptist Church at Roanoke, Va. He entered upon his services there October 1, 1919. He has a large membership of one thousand, and excellent congregations.

Dr. James has indulged in authorship in a modest way, having written two little books, entitled, "Why Germany Lost the War," and "Race Gleanings from a New Field."

Dr. James has had wide travel and personal experience. Everyone who comes in contact with him at once recognizes the forcefulness of the man. In looking back over his life he recalls with grateful appreciation the kindly helpfulness of the Rev. George P. McKinney of Live Oak, which was of great encouragement to the struggling youth. As might be

expected of one who is a traveler and thinker he is a lover of history.

He holds membership in the Odd Fellows and Knights of Pythias. He served as Moderator of the East Coast Association, was a trustee of the Florida Memorial College, when he pastored in Florida, and President of the State B. Y. P. U. Convention.

For his race he craves a "Better Leadership," as the one thing that will most effectually promote the interest of the race.

Dr. James has been three times married. First, on December 22, 1898, to Josie L. Wilson of Tampa, Fla. The four children of this marriage are Lula, Arthur, Jr., Everett, and Robert James. Their mother died June 19, 1908, leaving the husband with four little ones. The second marriage was contracted September 16, 1909, with Carrie N. Steward of Springfield, Mass. Of this marriage there were two children, Isabel and Caroline. December 17, 1912, Mrs. James died. On June 30, 1915, he married Ada Austin, of Martel, Fla., and of this marriage there is but one child, Josef C. James.

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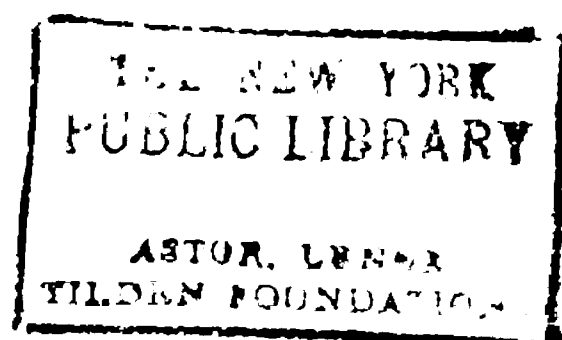
## CHARLES HENRY MORTON

Rev. Charles Henry Morton, A. B., A. M., S. T. B., of Eastville, is one of the leading lights of the Baptist denomination of the Eastern Shore. He was born at Staunton, in the beautiful Shenandoah Valley, in 1870. His father, Richard Morton, was a farmer and his mother, before her marriage, was Miss Betsy Ross.

Dr. Morton resided at Staunton till he was eighteen years of age and attended the public schools. His father having died when the boy was only five years old, it was necessary for him to work from childhood. In this way he assisted in the support of his mother and, of course, had to make his own way in school. Inspired by the example of others who had gone away to school, he determined to secure a

**CHARLES HENRY MORTON**





higher education and in 1889 entered the preparatory department of Lincoln University. He says that on reaching that institution, he had only \$3.75 in money with no outside help in sight. He trusted to God and to his own efforts and was given work which enabled him to earn the expenses of the course, which included not only tuition, but board as well. At the close of school, he would go to work on the farm and later entered the hotel service which he found more remunerative. Working along in this way from year to year, he finished the college course with the A. B. degree in 1894 and three years later completed the course in theology leading to the S. T. B. degree. For special work done in Aramaic the same institution conferred on him the A. M. degree. While always a hard worker and pressed for time while in school, he still found opportunity for exercise and was interested in college athletics, playing on both the baseball and the football teams at times.

Dr. Morton was converted at the early age of fourteen, but even before then had felt called to the work of the ministry. As a matter of fact, he was not licensed to preach until the year of his graduation, in 1897, and was in that same year ordained to the full work of the ministry by the Mount Zion Baptist Church, Staunton, Va.

In the fall of 1897 he accepted a position as Professor of Sciences, English and Latin in Spiller Academy at Hampton, Va. His first pastorate was the First Baptist Church at Amburg, which he served for two years and completed a house of worship which had been begun by a former pastor.

Dr. Morton went from Amburg to Grafton, where he preached for nine years and remodeled the church. His next work included both Ebenezer and Antioch Baptist Churches, in Matthews County, which he served for three years and remodeled the latter church.

About this time he was called to the principalship of the Corey Normal Institute, a Baptist school at Portsmouth, over which he presided for three years.

Returning to the pastorate, he served the Piney Grove Baptist Church in Princess Anne County for eighteen months

and has been pastor of the Union Baptist Church near Eastville for four years.

Dr. Morton is most delightfully situated in a splendid parsonage recently purchased by the church, which has a membership of 600 well-to-do, intelligent farmers and business people; and while his pastorate ranks as a country church, still he serves the town population of Eastville and has a house of worship that would do credit to a city. It is electrically lighted and steam heated and is in every way a comfortable, commodious building.

Dr. Morton is President of the Interdenominational Ministers' Union of the Eastern Shore of Virginia. He is a friend and supporter of education and is a member of the Executive Board of the Northampton Baptist Association, and a member of the State Mission Board of the Virginia General Association. He is of the opinion that the thing which will promote the best interests of the race in State and nation is education. He is conscious of the present weakness of the public school system and believes that our first care should be the strengthening of them.

On December 23, 1898, Dr. Morton was married to Miss Estelle H. Smith, a daughter of Solomon and Matilda Smith, of Phoebus, Va. They have three children, Thomas S., Roland S. and Charles H. Morton, Jr. Mrs. Estelle H. Morton, wife of Dr. Morton, has been most helpful in all of his work. She has without murmur or complaint cast her lot with him wherever Providence has directed. Her organizing ability and congenial Christian spirit have been constructive forces in his church work.

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## JOHN HENRY GRAY

We call a man self made, if he began life poor and had to make his way in the face of difficulties and work for his education. Many a man has gone that far without accomplishing much in the world. It is the man who, after hard training takes up some definite line of work, who succeeds in making a place for himself among his fellow men.

**JOHN HENRY GRAY**

Rev. John Henry Gray, a Baptist minister of Hampton, though beginning life in an humble way has to his credit twenty years of faithful service in the ministry. He was born at Richmond, May 29, 1872. His father, Jack Gray, was in the hotel service and was the son of Rev. Jack Gray and his wife, Matilda Gray. The mother of our subject was, before her marriage, Miss Susan Wallace, a daughter of Fannie Wallace.

Young Gray grew up in Richmond, finished his course at the public schools and followed the same line of work in which his father was engaged. Later he worked in private homes. He tells how he was greatly influenced for good while serving as a butler in the home of Rev. Geo. Woodbridge of Richmond.

He was converted when about sixteen and feeling called to preach was licensed in 1896 by the Queen Street Baptist Church of Hampton, Va. Feeling the need of better preparation, he studied theology at the Richmond Theological Seminary.

On Dec. 26, 1899, Rev. Mr. Gray was married to Miss Elen F. Holmes. She was educated at Hampton and is an accomplished teacher. She takes an active interest in the organized efforts of her people. The year following his marriage he was ordained to the full work of the Gospel ministry by Gray's Missionary Baptist Church. He lives in Hampton, where he owns a comfortable and attractive home.

His first pastorate was a church which he organized out of the slums, he says. Land was purchased, a house of worship was erected and the congregation which began by worshipping under the trees moved into its own home. The membership now numbers nearly three hundred and Gray's Missionary Baptist Church as it is very properly called has never had any other pastor during the twenty years of its history. Rev. Mr. Gray has also served the Mt. Olive Baptist Church for six years and for the last seven years has been pastor of the Liberty Baptist Church at Waverly, Va. This church has had a period of growth and progress under

his ministry. The building has been remodeled and the membership has grown from 69 to 290. So it will be seen that Mr. Gray has had a fruitful ministry. He has done considerable evangelistic work in various parts of the South.

He is a popular secret order man. He is a Mason and an Odd Fellow. For six years he was Grand Chaplain of the Elks. He is the Founder and President of the Legion and Ladies of Chaldean, a benevolent order. He is a trustee of Smallwood-Corey Institute, Greenville Institute, and a member of the State Mission Board of the General Baptist Association. He believes that the progress of the race depends on broad leadership and on the application of Christian principles to present day problems. He was active during the various war drives and campaigns and was chairman of the colored section for the Victory Drive.

So the poor struggling youth has become a leader of which his people may well be proud.

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## ROBERT CICERO PANNELL

Steady, strong, sincere, and faithful, are words that can well be applied to the Rev. Robert Cicero Pannell, who for eighteen years has been pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church, of Staunton, Va. He was born in Leesville, Campbell County, Va., July 31, 1865, son of Samuel and Sarah Jane Pannell. His paternal grandparents were Jack and Charity Pannell. His maternal grandparents were Jerry and Jane Lynch. Samuel Pannell, his father, was a farmer who believed in education and who after Emancipation helped to build school houses, saw to it that his children went to school and thus started them in the right way.

As a boy, young Pannell worked on the farm, attending during sessions the local rural schools and later went to public school in Lynchburg. Then he spent five years taking the Normal Course at Hampton Institute. He did some theological work while at Hampton and later pursued his theological studies under private tutors.

**ROBERT CICERO PANNELL AND FAMILY**

Converted at ten years of age, he felt the call to preach at twenty-two and was licensed to preach by the Diamond Hill Baptist Church at Lynchburg and was ordained to the full ministry by Brookville Baptist Church at Lynchburg. Meanwhile he had been caught in the teaching net, even before he went to Hampton and feeling the call of duty to both fields, he combined his teaching and preaching for years. Altogether his teaching covered twenty-one years.

His first pastorate when he turned entirely to the ministry was at the Livingston Baptist Church, where he remained four years and rebuilt the church. In 1902 he accepted the call to his present work where he has now been continuously for eighteen years. In that time he has built a handsome brick church which cost about twenty-two thousand dollars and has greatly built up his church in every way.

Rev. Mr. Pannell has come to be a real leader without any selfish ambitions. He is Chairman of the local Council of Ministers, Moderator for eleven years of Berean Valley Baptist Association which is composed of sixty churches, and trustee of Virginia Theological Seminary and College. He is a member of Board of Directors of Hampton Institute Conference. He has found time to do much evangelistic work. He has written some booklets and was active in local war drives and campaigns. Wherever there has been a need for help he has been found ready and capable.

Aside from his religious reading he has found biography and history most helpful.

On September 27, 1887, Mr. Pannell married Maria L. Branch of Lynchburg, who was educated at Hampton Institute and taught school in Lynchburg before and after her marriage. Mr. and Mrs. Pannell have three children, Philip E., Wilbur E., and Robert C. Pannell, Jr. Wilbur served in the war as 2nd Lieut. and Philip as 1st Sergeant. All three of them are being given a college education.

As to how best to promote the interest of his race, Mr. Pannell answers in two words, "Christian Character." That is the real answer and he is a big enough man to grasp the



basic truth, for if Christian Character dominated the world, Christian Ethics would become the practice and all human problems would be solved.

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## ROSEMOND K. D. GARRETT

In no other country has the mixing up of races and nationalities resulted in more examples of composite humanity than in these United States. The subject of this biography is an illustration, as in his veins runs the blood of the Indian, Negro and Caucasian races. The combination has resulted in a man who is working out a career of great usefulness.

Rev. R. K. D. Garrett now of Norfolk, was born in Union County, S. C., March 8, 1876. His father, Levi Garrett, was a farmer, and his mother's maiden name was Mary Mitcham. His maternal grandfather was a Cherokee Indian, his paternal grandmother was white and other than this but little is known of the early history of his kin.

Young Garrett was the youngest of fourteen children. His boyhood was spent in farm work and getting a little schooling in a public school at Gaffney, S. C. As he grew older he worked his way and entered the Presbyterian School at Spartanburg, S. C., from which he graduated in June, 1896.

That same year he was converted and within three months was licensed to preach by the Colored Methodist Episcopal Church. He joined the Conference at Leesville, S. C., in 1898, being received by the lamented Bishop Holsey.

Rev. Garrett's appointments have covered a wide range of circuits and stations. In South Carolina, at Prosperity one year; Lexington two years; Hodges two years; Catherwood one year; Iva two years; thence to Brooklyn, Va., two years; thence to Baltimore, Md., one year; thence to Evington, Va., three years; Presiding Elder Petersburg, Va., District for four years; thence to St. Luke's Church, Norfolk. As will be noted he has had every sort of clerical experience

ROSEMOND KING DAVENPORT GARRETT

that can come to a Methodist preacher—circuits, stations, and presiding elder.

In 1918 he organized the congregation which he is now serving, and which under his direction is now engaged in erecting a fifty thousand dollar church building. The membership is about 700. This fact concretely shows his ability to put life and motion into his people, and that he gains their regard is demonstrated by the fact that they are naming the new church Garrett Temple C. M. E. Church in honor of the pastor.

Rev. Garrett's life presents no unusual angles, just a steady worker. His parents, the church, and the Sunday School have shaped his life. The Bible and religious literature have covered much the larger part of his reading. He has traveled over ten States of the Union. His political faith allies him with the Republican party, but he takes no active part in politics. Aside from his church his only affiliation is with the Masonic order.

He is a good example of the man with the single track mind, which leads him to be absolutely a man of one work, and because of this consecration he gets results. It would seem as if he had modeled his life on that of Bishop Holsey, who was much the same type of man in single minded devotion to his work.

On Nov. 8, 1896, Mr. Garrett married Martha McKinney, a daughter of Robert and Harriet McKinney of Spartanburg, S. C. They have five children, Marjorie, Aleese, R. K. D., Jr., Josephine, and Charles Levi Garrett.

During the war, Mr. Garrett took an active part in all drives and campaigns, doing his full share of the work. He regards the right kind of education the most potent factor in promoting the forward movement of the race.

Paine College, Augusta, Ga., has conferred on him the D. D. degree.

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## WILLIAM COUSINS

Truth is stranger than fiction. No writer of romance a hundred years ago would have dared invent a story such as can be told in simple truth about Rev. William Cousins, D. D., of Portsmouth.

At an age when men are now graduating from college, he was still a slave, and at a time when many men are settling down to the serious work of life, he was learning to read and write.

He was born at Midlothian in Chesterfield County, Feb. 9, 1844. So it will be seen he was twenty-one years of age at the close of the war when Emancipation became an established fact.

His parents were William and Matilda Cousins. His mother was a Carey before her marriage. The family was taken to Richmond, Va., when the boy was yet a small child and he grew up in that city. He remembers when the soldiers went away to the execution of John Brown. He also witnessed from the steps of the custom house the entry of the first Union troops into Richmond April 4, 1865. He was an eye witness of the scenes which attended the evacuation of the city by the Confederates, and its occupation by the Federals. With the fall of Richmond and the surrender of General Lee came freedom. During the war, when about nineteen, he was happily converted and for fifty-eight years has been identified with the Baptist Church. Immediately after the war he attended a night school. His father was an unusually intelligent man for a slave and had obtained clandestinely some knowledge of books and was able to help his son in the beginning. He made rapid progress. It was not long before he felt called to preach and actually began preaching and getting pay for it before he was licensed. He was licensed in 1871 by the First Baptist Church of Richmond, and the next year ordained to the full work of the ministry. In the meantime he had entered Richmond Institute and after three years he was made a student teacher and continued his studies in the upper grades. He

**WILLIAM COUSINS**

was graduated in 1874 and what was then Richmond Institute, now Virginia Union University, conferred on him the degree of Doctor of Divinity.

On May 15, 1907, Dr. Cousins was married to Mrs. M. M. Garrett, second marriage. There are two children, Richard A. and Sarah Inez. Mrs. Cousins passed away in 1915.

Dr. Cousins has had a fruitful ministry and has baptized at least six hundred persons into the membership of the church. His first pastorate was at Bottsville, where he preached three years. He preached at First Church, Jefferson, three years, First Orleans two years, and First Church, Suffolk, eight years, where he started the congregation on a building program. He pastored Bryants seven years and was for four years missionary at Wytheville and did much for the Baptist cause in that part of the State.

He preached at Richlands two years, Tazewell two years, and built a church at Richlands, and paid for a church at Tazewell. He preached at Ridgeway four years, building a church. He organized the church at Halesford, Booker T. Washington's birthplace. He was at Cascade one year and Blackberry four years, and built a church at this place.

During the early years of his ministry he taught school, all of which was in Virginia with the exception of a few months at St. Helene Island, S. C.

The Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, co-operating with the Virginia Baptist General Association, employs men of recognized ability and proven leadership to conduct institutes, especially for the training of those who have lacked opportunity. In this capacity Dr. Cousins has a territory of eighteen counties in Eastern Virginia among which are some of the wealthiest and most populous Negro counties in Virginia. That he has been kept on this important work at the age of seventy-seven is evidence not only of his ability but also of his vitality. In appearance and in speech he seems twenty years younger. He has had the joy of seeing young men who came into his institutes years ago grow up and themselves become leaders in the work of the Kingdom.

Dr. Cousins is a man of good executive and business ability and had he chosen to turn his attention to business pursuits, might have made a place for himself in the business world. He has property interests in Hampton and in Portsmouth amounting to fifteen or twenty thousand dollars. Few men of his denomination in the State know more men of the ministry personally than Dr. Cousins.

So it will be seen that the man who spent the first twenty-one years of his life in slavery to an earthly master, has been permitted to spend more than half a century in the service of the Heavenly Master and now at nearly four score years still able in body, vigorous in mind and fervent in spirit, he stands as an example to the younger generation, having preached with his life as well as with his voice.

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## EDWARD DANIEL McCREARY

Rev. Edward Daniel McCreary, one of the enterprising young men of the Baptist denomination in Virginia, is located at the historic old town of Williamsburg. He is pastor of the First Baptist Church of that city, which is one of the oldest Negro church organizations in America, and has had a continuous life from the time of the Revolution to the present.

Dr. McCreary is a native of Herbert, Ala., where he was born Oct. 12, 1882. He is the son of Rev. Riley McCreary and his wife, Priscilla, who was Miss Lovelas. She was a daughter of Anthony and Charlotte Lovelas.

Young McCreary attended public school at Old Town, Ala., and went from there to Selma University, studying at that institution for six years. He experienced no particular difficulty in getting an education, except that he had to earn the money for his expenses. He did not find this any great hardship, as he was determined to fit himself for his work in life.

Just as he was verging into manhood at nineteen years of age, he joined the Baptist Church. That was in the fall of

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**EDWARD DANIEL McCREARY AND WIFE**



1901. Three years later, he felt called to the ministry and was licensed to preach by the St. John's Baptist Church and two years later was fully ordained by the same church. Speaking of his early years, he says: "My home training was the deciding factor in my life. I think nothing has done me more good than the impression of my mother."

Dr. McCreary's first pastorate was at the home church, St. John's, in Alabama, which he served for one year, thence going to the Virginia Union University, Richmond, Va., in 1909, for his college and theological training and while a student in this school was called to the First Baptist Church, Madison, Wisconsin, in 1912, but did not remain there very long, in order to continue his studies at the University. Also during his theological training at the Va. Union University he supplied Great Mt. Olive Baptist Church of Chicago, Ill., of which Dr. F. L. Fisher was then pastor, for two summers. After nearly completing his college course in the University he pursued his theological course, which was completed with the degree of Bachelor of Divinity in 1914. In the same year, he was called to the Gayton Baptist Church in Henrico County, where he preached for two years and repaired the house of worship. In 1916 he resigned this work to accept the pastorate of the Old First Baptist Church at Williamsburg, where he has since remained. The congregation has taken on new life under his ministry and has more than doubled in numbers and has been able to remodel the church edifice at a cost of several thousand dollars and pay it all off in two years. While he has had some difficult situations with which to deal, he has handled them wisely and has met every condition with fine Christian spirit. He enters heartily into the work of the race and of the denomination and is Vice-Moderator of the Tidewater and Peninsula Baptist Association. He taught school for three years in the nearby town of Toano, but more recently has given his entire time to the ministry as a congregation of more than six hundred members requires.

Dr. McCreary believes that the great need of the race today is better school facilities, with closer attention to the

farms and to the affairs of the race, without reference to the White people. This does not mean that Dr. McCreary is antagonistic to the White people, but rather that his own people should depend on their own energies and keep their own counsels and work out their own destinies.

On June 29, 1916, he was married to Miss Florence Estelle Storrs, a daughter of James and Emmeline Storrs of Richmond. She was educated in that city and was a teacher, before her marriage, in the public schools. They have one son, Edward Daniel McCreary, Jr.

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## GEORGE WESLEY RANEY

George Wesley Raney of Newport News, Va., commonly known as Wesley Raney, is a man of energy and many activities, and what is called in these days a self made man. His life story is worth telling for the benefit of others.

He was born on a farm in Lunenburg County, Va., on Mar. 3, 1867. Scott Raney and Eliza Raney were his parents. Scott Raney was a farmer and followed that occupation until Wesley Raney was about 20 years old when the elder forsook farming and followed public work the remainder of his life.

Wesley Raney worked on the farm until he was fifteen and got a little schooling from the local public schools. Of this period he says that he did not know how to go about it until it was too late, because they lived in the woods, the teachers were white and taught them what they wanted to know rather than supplying their real educational needs.

At 18 the boy went to Newport News to try his fortune. His first work was as a longshoreman. He followed that for several years and then became a porter in the main store of the great Newport News Ship Building and Dry Dock Co. There he learned a great deal about business and was then employed as an agent by an Industrial Life Insurance Co., working his way up to manager and then general superintendent, which position he held until the company sold out

**GEORGE WESLEY RANEY**

to the Southern Aid Society of Richmond, Va. He filled his place in the insurance business to the eminent satisfaction of both patrons and owners and influenced a great deal of business.

For seven years he was Deputy Commissioner of Revenue of Warwick County, and also special police officer of said county, which is evidence of his satisfactory relations and good standing with every element in the county. That is merely another phase of Mr. Raney's activities. He is an enthusiastic fraternalist. He is Vice-President of the Sons and Daughters of Peace. In the Improved Benevolent Protective Order of Elks of the World, he has passed all the chairs in his subordinate lodge, state deputy for five years, and has been delegate ten different times to the Grand Lodge. He is a member of the State Business League and is on its Executive Board.

His church activities are equally pronounced. A member of the Christian Church, he is Financial Secretary of the Afro-Christian Convention of the United States, South America, Canada, and the West Indies, is Chairman of Finance Committee Eastern Virginia Christian Conference; Chairman of Board of Trustees of his local church and for twenty-five years Superintendent of Sunday School, Clerk of the Executive Board of the Sons and Daughters of Peace, and Director of P. N. & D. Savings Bank.

As a capstone of all these varied activities he conducts an up-to-date grocery business, probably to keep himself from rusting out. The recital above shows Mr. Raney to be a man of enormous energy and to his credit let it be said it is spent in righteous channels.

His preferred reading is religious books. He has traveled pretty extensively in Virginia and the five adjoining States with Pennsylvania added.

He has pronounced views as to how to promote the best interests of the race. He says, "By becoming citizens filling the requirements of the laws so as to be eligible to cast a ballot—then follow up with manhood. Patronize Negro enterprises and be honest with their fellowmen."

Mr. Raney married Dec. 16, 1897, Miss Agnes Hazelwood, daughter of Simon and Harriet Hazelwood. Of the children born to this union the following are living, Lucy, Edna Fox, Theodore R., Rosella, Willie, and Wesley Raney.

With a record of remarkable achievement back of him Mr. Raney looks forward to an ever increasing measure of success during the coming years.

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## MARION EDWARD DAVIS

Norfolk, Va., is fortunate in the character and quality of the men who are in charge of the churches of that city.

Rev. Marion Edward Davis, D. D., of the African Methodist Episcopal Church who at this date (1920) is pastor of St. John's Station, is a fine representative of the great Methodist organization to which he belongs. Dr. Davis belongs to the type of church builders to which the denomination owes so much.

Marion Edward Davis was born at Ebenezer, Holmes County, Miss., January 19, 1862. His mother's name was Anne and his grandparents were owned by the Hortons, a fine old white family. Young Davis grew up on a farm and gained a smattering of elementary training from the very inadequate public schools of his section. However, he must have had a keen mind as a boy, for he gained enough to enable him to teach three years though but a youth at the time. He entered what is now known as Walden University, Nashville, Tenn., for the normal course and was there five years. In his year of graduation he went out for two more years of teaching. In the meantime he had been converted at eighteen and soon thereafter felt called to preach. At the meeting of the Mississippi Conference, at Yazoo City, in 1886, he was admitted to the Conference by Bishop Ward.

He was even then beginning to show the metal that was in him, for, recognizing the need of greater educational attainments he entered Wilberforce University at Xenia, O., and finished the college preparatory and theological courses

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**MARION EDWARD DAVIS**

in 1894. During his student days at Wilberforce he was an active pastor at Springfield for five years, which was his first-charge. Returning to Mississippi he was sent to Friar's Point Station, where he remained for five years as pastor and as head of Stringer's Academy, an A. M. E. School at that place. He paid the church there out of debt. He was then sent to Clarksdale, where he remained three years, at the same time retaining the connection with the school at Friar's Point. At Clarksdale he built a parsonage. He was then sent to Port Gibson, and during his term of five years there he paid the debt on a fine new church. Thence to Natchez and during his term there of five years he remodeled Zion Chapel and improved the parsonage and cleared the church of debt. Transferred to the Virginia Conference, he was stationed at Emanuel, Portsmouth, for the full term and remodeled the interior. From there he was sent to Richmond, where he remained four years and in June, 1920, was sent to his present work—St. John's, Norfolk. This assignment to the best appointment in the Virginia Conference and one of the best in the entire connection is in itself a recognition of the fact that Dr. Davis is one of the strong men of his denomination. During his ministerial career Dr. Davis has attended seven General Conferences of his church, which has in itself made him quite a traveled man. He is a miscellaneous reader and gets help in that way from many sources.

In looking back to his younger days he acknowledges his indebtedness to R. A. Simmons, an English teacher, and Dr. Braden, Pres. of Walden University, whose help and counsel he regards as having been the chief factor in shaping his life.

Aside from his church, Dr. Davis is a member of the Masons and Odd Fellows, which shows that he has the spirit of moderation in these days of innumerable fraternal societies. While stationed at Richmond, Dr. Davis took an active part in the numerous drives and campaigns of the war period.

As to how the best interests of the Negro race in America may be promoted, he is of the opinion that "Proper Leader-

ship" is the key to forward movement spiritually, materially, and governmentally.

On Oct. 27, 1897, Dr. Davis was married to Miss Cora L. Flagg, of Mississippi, daughter of Campbell and Caroline Flagg. Mrs. Davis was educated at Oberlin, O., and Berea, Ky., and was a teacher prior to her marriage. They have two children, Carolina A. and Marion Edward Davis, Jr. The daughter, Caroline, is a graduate of Wilberforce University and of the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy.

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## DANA OLDEN BALDWIN

Dana O. Baldwin, M. D., of Martinsville, Va., one of the upstanding physicians of his section, was born near Belvoir, Chatham County, N. C., March 20, 1881. He is a son of Rev. Haisy and Mary Crutchfield Baldwin. His father is a Methodist minister. His paternal grandfather was Jerry Baldwin, a slave, and his maternal grandmother was Margaret Crutchfield. He was the oldest child and had to begin early to help support the family. Schools only ran for two months in the year, so his early study was mostly at home, much of it at night by the aid of lightwood torches.

The removal of his family to a town was helpful though his farm labors continued. He finally got to the Apex Normal and Collegiate Institute, completing the course at sixteen, becoming then a rural teacher in winter and farming during the summer. This continued until he was twenty-one years of age, when he started out into the big world and for five years traveled and worked in private families. Persuaded by his mother to return home and finish his education he entered Leonard Medical College of Shaw University and was graduated in 1910.

He took the Virginia State Board examination, was passed by the Board and decided to locate in Martinsville, where he was the only Negro physician. Pioneers never have an easy time, and Dr. Baldwin was no exception. The first years



were hard sledding but he gained a little each year and was well established when the United States entered the World War. Dr. Baldwin immediately volunteered, was accepted and commissioned as First Lieutenant in the Medical Corps. He was trained at Des Moines, Iowa, and assigned to Ambulance Co. 368 of the 92d Division, 317 Sanitary Train, and served through the war with that command, participating in all the engagements in which his command took part. He returned from France with the command and was honorably discharged at Camp Meade, Md., April 2, 1919.

He resumed his practice at Martinsville, which now keeps him very busy and prosperous. Considering all the conditions surrounding his venture in a new and untried field Dr. Baldwin has done marvelously well.

Dec. 24, 1911, Dr. Baldwin married Miss Vina Flood, a daughter of L. F. and Elizabeth Flood of Martinsville. Mrs. Baldwin was educated at Hartshorn College and is a teacher in the local schools.

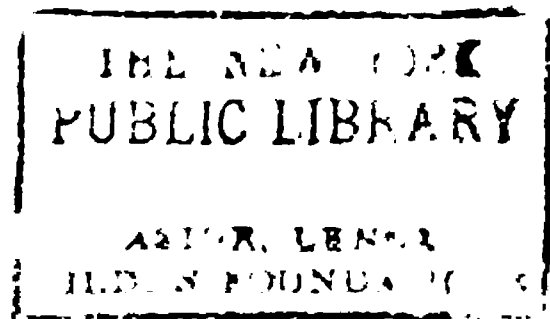
While not considering himself a widely traveled man, Dr. Baldwin has seen most of the larger cities of this country and his term of service in Europe was of benefit to him in widening his horizon.

Recalling his youth, he now sees that the greatest factor in shaping his life was the unceasing effort of Christian parents to instil into him the determination to make the best possible man of himself and so help others.

His favorite reading is of the lives of men who have wrought themselves forward from obscurity to positions of influence and usefulness. In politics he is a Republican and in religion a Methodist, being active in his church as a Steward and Trustee. He is Medical Examiner for the North Carolina Mutual Insurance Co., the Standard Life Insurance Co., Knights of Pythias and Independent Order of Odd Fellows of Martinsville, Va. In fraternal circles he is affiliated with the Masons, Knights of Pythias and Odd Fellows.

Dr. Baldwin believes that the best way to promote the interests of the race is "by advocating and working for better schools, better churches, better sanitation, by buying

**DANA OLDEN BALDWIN**



and working farms, by seeing to it that the children are instructed in civic duty in the schools and taught the importance and power of the ballot."

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## ISAIAH ALLEN JACKSON

Young, vigorous, active, capable, Isaiah Allen Jackson, M. D., of Orange, Va., has wrought out at the early age of thirty-two a position which makes him easily the most influential colored man in his county, enjoying the esteem of all classes in the community, white and colored.

Dr. Jackson was born at Somerset, Va., February 2, 1888, son of Allen and Delilah Ann Tyree Jackson. Allen Jackson was a carpenter. Dr. Jackson's paternal grandmother was Sallie Jackson. His maternal grandparents were John and Mary Tyree. John Tyree was a farmer. They were all Christian characters and thrifty. Young Jackson had rather better than the average start in life, though he lost his father when he was twelve years of age. This loss was partially overcome by an elder brother who taught him the carpenter's trade which enabled him to earn money to partially pay his way through the schools. He makes grateful acknowledgment to brothers and sisters whose timely help enabled him to complete his educational training at a comparatively early age. He attended public schools of Orange County, did school work under private teachers, and graduated at the Virginia Normal and Industrial Institute at Petersburg, Va. After that he entered Leonard Medical College of Shaw University, from which he was graduated in 1911 as a Doctor of Medicine.

Thus at twenty-three the young man was equipped for his life work. After graduation he served as Interne at Tuskegee Institute for four months, which position he resigned, and on November 16, 1911, hung out his shingle as a practicing physician at Orange. His success was immediate. The local white physicians treated him well and his relations with them had been most cordial. He is prepar-

**ISAIAH ALLEN JACKSON**

ing to specialize in ear, eye, nose and throat. Dr. Jackson is so constituted that he puts his whole soul in everything he undertakes.

During the world war he held a commission in the Medical Corps of the United States Army and served as Chairman of the Orange branch of the Red Cross.

He is District Deputy Grand Chancellor and Medical Examiner for the Knights of Pythias. He is President of the Orange Colored Horse Show and Racing Association, Inc., Degree Master of G. U. O. O. F. 9602. He is also active in educational and social work, a ranking member in the Masonic Order, member of the Executive Committee Negro Organization Society of Virginia, Examiner for N. C. Mutual Life Ins. Co., an member Old Dominion Medical Society. He has recently been appointed to edit The Old Dominion Medical Journal.

In politics he is the recognized leader of the Republican party in his county, being a member of the State Committee and eighth district Delegate to the Republican National Convention of 1920, held in Chicago.

Incessant toil has marked his career, coupled with that he has a strong will, courage, an altruistic spirit, and the spirit of efficiency in his work. By travel he is familiar with the southern, northern, and middle western States.

His reading covers a rather wide range as he is partial to the "Vision of Sir Launfel," economics, psychology and science. His religious affiliation is with the Baptist Church. A close observer and coming into intimate contact with his people as a physician, he places "industry, thrift, education and organization" as the bases upon which his race must build.

June 17, 1915, Dr. Jackson was married to Miss Nannie L. Coleman, youngest daughter of William H. and Nannie L. Coleman of Richmond, Va. Mrs. Jackson received her educational training from the Armstrong High School and Shaw University. They have two children, Madlynn Coleman, and Isaiah Allen Jackson, Jr.

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## LYLBURN LIGGINS DOWNING

Rev. Lylburn Liggins Downing, A. B., D. D., pastor of the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church of Roanoke, is a rare but modest man whose work at Roanoke is his own best monument. For more than a quarter of a century he has been identified with the work there. In fact, it may be said that he created the Presbyterian Church at that point.

Dr. Downing is a native of the historic town of Lexington, Va., where he was born on May 3, 1862. His father was Lylburn Downing, for thirty years a trained nurse at V. M. I., his mother was Ellen H. Downing.

After the war, when the public schools of the State were opened to the colored boys and girls, young Downing was among the first to enter the school at Lexington. As a student he early showed those qualities which have since made him so successful in the ministry.

At an early age he aspired to be a physician and was studying with that end in view, but after his conversion he felt called to preach the Gospel. He was obedient to the heavenly vision, abandoned his own preconceived ideas of what he wanted to do in life, and with singleness of purpose consecrated himself to the ministry.

He finished his college course at Lincoln University with the A. B. degree in 1889. Taking up the theological course, he completed that in 1894. The degree of D. D. was conferred on him by his Alma Mater in 1906.

During his early college years, he did hotel work in order to make his way. Such was his record as a student, however, that he won a scholarship and after reaching his theological course did Sabbath School work in Virginia during vacations. He was one time colporteur for the American Tract Society. Dr. Downing recalls with peculiar gratitude the influence on his life of Dr. and Mrs. Brownson of Washington, Pa., with whom he came in contact at Atlantic City.

The life of another great man, although he never saw him, of course, was also closely identified with his career.

**LYLBURN LIGGINS DOWNING**



Dr. Downing was born in Lexington, where the memory of Stonewall Jackson was greatly revered and where the distinguished General had taught a class of colored pupils in the Presbyterian Sunday School. As a boy, young Downing, when wandering in the local cemetery, determined to erect a monument to the distinguished General who was so beloved by the people of Lexington. Years later, when he was well established in his work at Roanoke and a new house of worship was erected, a memorial window was placed in the church to the honor of Gen. Jackson. This attracted nation-wide attention as it was the first colored church thus to honor a Confederate hero.

After completing his college course at Lincoln University, Dr. Downing taught Latin and History for two years in the preparatory department. On finishing his theological course, he located at Roanoke and has steadily refused all calls to larger and more remunerative work, feeling that his best service can be rendered in this growing center in the Valley. A splendid new house of worship has been built and an active congregation of two hundred members brought into the fold.

Dr. Downing is a prominent figure in denominational gatherings and has been delegate to three General Assemblies. He is Moderator of the Presbyterian Synod of Catawba.

When it is remembered that the work at Roanoke was merely a small mission when Dr. Downing came to it, the success he has achieved will be appreciated. As a matter of record, it should be said that when he took charge of the church, it was on the promise of \$2.00 a week salary from the congregation, though his first collection amounted to only sixty-seven cents. But for the aid received from the Freedman's Bureau, it would have been impossible to have maintained himself in this field. Having set himself, however, to the task of building up the Presbyterian work at this point, he determined to stay by it and would be satisfied with nothing short of a self-supporting church.

While it is as preacher and pastor that Dr. Downing is best known, he has by no means been inactive in other direc-

tions. For twenty years he has been a member of the City Republican Committee, being the only member of his race in that body. He keeps in touch with civic, economic and political matters and is thus able to advise his people intelligently.

For years Dr. Downing has taken a most active interest in juvenile work and was the city's first probation officer and still serves in that capacity for the protection and care of the delinquents of his race.

Among the secret and benevolent orders he is identified with the Masons, Odd Fellows and Pythians. He was for several years Grand Master of the Masons of Virginia and is District Grand Master of the Odd Fellows. He is also one of the committee appointed to prepare a record of what Roanoke soldiers accomplished in the World War.

On June 3, 1888, Dr. Downing married Miss Lottie Jackson Clinton, youngest daughter of the late Bishop J. J. Clinton of the A. M. E. Zion Church. Their children are Lylburn C., Ellenwood D., Letitia E., Lewis K., Gardner P., and William S. Downing.

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## WILLIAM THOMAS JOHNSON

Richmond has long been a sort of mecca for Baptist ministers, both white and colored,, and when a man is chosen pastor of one of the great old churches of that historic old city, there is a feeling that he has about the best thing his denomination has to offer. The fact that the pulpit of the famous and historic old First African Baptist Church is now occupied by a man who was born and reared in what is now a part of Richmond adds to the credit of that man, Rev. Wm. Thomas Johnson, D. D.

He was born in Manchester, now South Richmond, on July 10, 1866, soon after the close of the war. His parents, Henry and Katherine Johnson, had both been slaves before Emancipation. His maternal grandmother was Sallie Annie Green. Beyond this he knows little of his earlier ancestors.

**WILLIAM THOMAS JOHNSON**

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Dr. Johnson was married on Sept. 5, 1894, to Miss Margaret Rose Michie, of Louisa County, Va. She is an accomplished woman, having been educated at Hartshorn Memorial College, of which she is now a trustee. She was before her marriage a teacher. They have no living children.

Young Johnson was a busy, energetic boy. He went to the public schools, worked in a factory or at a hotel, or at whatever came his way at the time. He experienced the new birth while still a boy, at the age of fourteen, and joined the First Baptist Church of Manchester. Two years later he felt led by the spirit to preach the Gospel and began preparation for that important and glorious work. After completing his public school career, he went to Richmond Institute, and when he was able to secure a teacher's license, began teaching. His first school was in Surry County, where he taught one year. After that he taught two years in that part of Manchester known as Swansboro. In 1893 he completed his theological course at the Richmond Theological Seminary, now Virginia Union University, with the B. D. degree. In May of the same year he was ordained to the full work of the ministry. His first pastorate was Mt. Olive Baptist Church, Chesterfield County, Va., where he remained four years, doing much to build up the people and strengthen the work. His second pastorate was the First Baptist Church at Lexington, Va., which he served over eight years. While there a splendid new house of worship was erected under his administration at a cost of \$27,000.00, and every department of the work greatly strengthened. In addition to this he spent much time in teaching public and private schools while in this section of his State. Such was the record of the young preacher at Lexington, Va., that when a vacancy occurred in the pastorate of the First Baptist Church, Richmond, Va., he was called to that church in 1901. At the head of this great congregation he has met and surpassed the highest expectations of his friends. For nineteen years he has gone in and out before this people with increasing efficiency, growing popularity, and unmatched success in all departments

of the work. For seven years of the time he was at Lexington he was engaged in teaching an independent school, and both there and at Richmond he has done a great deal of ministerial supply work. When it is stated that he has recorded a membership of thirty-six hundred it will be understood that he is a very busy man. For eighteen years he has served as chairman of the Foreign Mission Board of the Lott Carey Foreign Mission Convention, U. S. A.

No man in the denomination stands higher than Dr. Johnson. For five years he has been Moderator of the Shiloh Association over the sessions of which he presides with ease and dignity. He is Secretary of the Educational Board of the Virginia Baptist General Association and Editor of the Baptist Headlight, the organ of the denomination in the State. He is a Curator of Hampton Institute and a trustee of Virginia Union University, Smallwood Corey Collegiate and Industrial Institute, Keysville Industrial Institute and Rappahannock Industrial Academy. He is also Trustee of the United Society of Christian Endeavor.

In 1903 the Va. Union University conferred upon him the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity. In 1905 he attended the World's Baptist Congress at London and toured Europe. His favorite reading is history and biography.

Among the secret orders he belongs to the Masons, Pythians, Odd Fellows, Good Samaritans, St. Lukes, and National Ideal Benefit Society, being a member of the Board of Directors in the latter. He also belongs to the Grand Lodge of St. John the Watchman. He is Chairman of the colored branch of the Red Cross and during the war was chairman of various drives and campaigns with office on Leigh Street.

He is of the opinion that what the race needs today, and all it needs, is simply a square deal educationally, economically, and every other way—in other words a man's chance.

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## FRANCIS EAGER PREE

Though residing in Washington, D. C., Rev. Francis Eager Pree is a true Virginian, being identified with the Old Dominion by birth, by education and by his work. He was born near the historic old town of Williamsburg, which witnessed the beginning of so many important things in American history. The date of his birth was May 29, 1882. His father, John Pree, was a laborer, and was the son of Dresden and Charity Pree. Rev. Pree's mother was, before her marriage, Dora Diggs. She was a daughter of Joseph and Margaret Diggs. There was a strain of Indian blood on the mother's side.

On April 16, 1912, Mr. Pree was married to Miss Abbie Jackson, a daughter of Addison and Catherine Jackson of Rockville, Md. They have two children, Earl O., and Martin J. Pree.

Young Pree laid the foundation of his education in the local public schools, supplemented by private study and private teaching. He went to Hampton Institute for two years and passed from that institution to that other famous school, St. Paul's at Lawrenceville, Va. Here he remained for four years, completing the normal course, and taking one year of college preparatory work. For three of the four years he was at St. Paul's he worked as night watchman, but regularly making his classes along with those who slept during the night. After moving to Washington he entered Howard University, where he pursued the course in English and theology. This again was done by doubling up, as he was employed during the day.

While still living at Williamsburg and when about sixteen years of age he was converted and joined the First Baptist Church of that city, having been baptized by the late Jno. M. Dawson. Immediately thereafter he felt called to preach the gospel and in 1908 was licensed and three years later ordained to the full work of the ministry by the same church.

**FRANCIS EAGER FREE**

For a number of years Mr. Pree has been holding a clerical position in the Pan American Union, but has used this work merely as a means to an end.

His first regular pastorate was at Rockville, Md. He went there in 1910 and found five members. When he left at the end of eight years there were seventy-seven members and the work was on a solid foundation. For seven years he has been preaching at Ebenezer, Occoquan, Prince William County, Va. This work also has prospered under his hand. He baptized forty-one new members the first year there at one service. He has served Providence Church at Leesburg, Va., for four years, raised nine thousand dollars and increased the membership from 170 to 386. He also preaches at Union Baptist Church, Cycolin in Loudon County.

He is a member of the executive board of the Northern Baptist Association. In politics he is a Republican, and belongs to the Odd Fellows and the Masons.

He is a hard worker, a successful pastor and a good citizen. He knows of no short cuts to success and has no cure all to prescribe for present conditions, but believes that every leader of the race should encourage individual effort on the part of every person in his community to be true, honest and self-supporting, as far as possible.

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## ISAAC DAVID BURRELL

The late Isaac David Burrell, of Roanoke, was one of the most accomplished and successful physicians in the Valley of Virginia.

Dr Burrell was a native of Chula, in Amelia County, where he was born just a few days before the close of the war which brought freedom to him and to his people. His father, Robert Burrell, was a farmer.

Young Burrell grew up in Amelia County and attended the local public schools after the war. He was an ambitious youth and was the most successful member of his family.



When ready for college, he went to Lincoln University, where he was under the necessity of making his own way in school on account of the financial conditions at home. He was a hard and faithful worker, however, and was not discouraged by difficulties but found in the very obstacles which he had to overcome the inspiration to do his best. He completed his work at Lincoln in 1888, after which he matriculated at Leonard Medical College, of Shaw University, at Raleigh. He won his M. D. degree from that institution in 1893 and the same year located at Roanoke, where he soon built up a large general practice which continued to grow to the day of his death.

After he was well established in the practice of medicine, he founded and conducted the Burrell Drug Store, which was the first colored drug store in southwest Virginia. This important business institution was conducted for several years after his death by Mrs. Burrell, but was later disposed of on account of the technical and detail work associated with it.

The Burrell Memorial Hospital of Roanoke has been named in honor of Dr. Burrell, whose life and work was such a blessing to the people of Roanoke.

Dr. Burrell was an active member of the Presbyterian Church, of which he was an elder. Among the secret orders he was identified with the Masons, Pythians and Odd Fellows, and in addition to his membership in the various medical associations, was President of the Magic City Medical Society.

His skill as a physician, his integrity as a man and his general work as a citizen, all served to endear him to the people of Roanoke. He took an active and leading part in everything looking to the progress and development of his people locally and nationally.

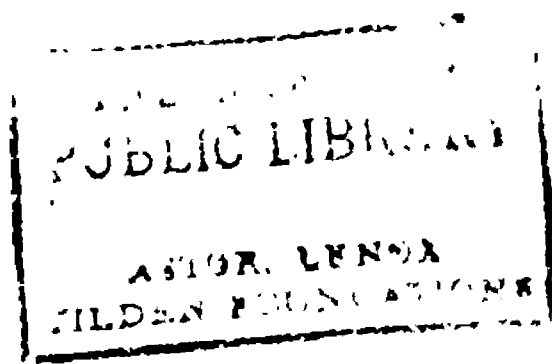
On December 28, 1897, he was married to Miss Margaret H. Barnette, the accomplished daughter of Theodore and Cornelia Barnette, of Lynchburg. Mrs. Burrell was educated in the public schools of Lynchburg and at Hampton Institute and was a very successful teacher in the public





MRS. ISAAC DAVID BURRELL.

ISAAC DAVID BURRELL.



schools of Roanoke before her marriage to Dr. Burrell. She is a Deaconess in the Presbyterian Church and is treasurer of the local Sunday School. During the war, Mrs. Burrell took an active part in the local campaigns and drives and was identified with the Red Cross auxiliary. She is of the opinion that the progress of the race depends on better educational advantages, civic encouragement and sympathy. Mrs. Burrell is a woman of culture and refinement and has surrounded herself with the evidences of literary, musical and artistic taste.

After a short and painful illness, Dr Burrell passed to his reward on March 21, 1914.

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## GEORGE WILLIAM MILLNER

It is probably true that the majority of the Negro race in our country are not fully aware of the progress made by the race in the past 55 years. To the average person that seems a long time, while to the philosophic student of history and races of people it is but a brief space.

It is certainly true that no race has ever made greater progress in that period of time. With centuries of African conditions even worse than slavery, followed by other centuries of slavery, handicapped by lack of inventive power, they have in this last half-century developed educators, ministers, physicians, dentists, labor leaders, and gained a foothold in practically every vocation and also as bankers, artisans, merchants, able farmers. A large percentage of them have gained at least grammar school training with many college graduates. They have no reason either to be discouraged or impatient.

The subject of this sketch, George William Millner of Norfolk is a labor leader who has a creditable record.

George William Millner was born at Danville, Va., May 30, 1879, son of William and Lucy Millner. His paternal grandparents were Henry and Jane Millner, on maternal side, John and Lucy Shipps. As a boy young Millner went to

**GEORGE WILLIAM MILLNER**

public school in Danville and later after removal to Richmond attended the Petersburg Normal and Collegiate Institute for two terms, going north during vacation periods and working in hotels.

He early learned the barber's trade, at which he worked a number of years both North and South. In 1912 he went to work as a stevedore at Sewell's Point and soon became a leader among his fellow workmen. He joined the local Longshoreman's Union and came in touch with the American Federation of Labor through this connection with the International Longshoreman's Association. In 1917 he went with the U. S. Bureau of Employment and Labor, at Norfolk, and when that was closed, was appointed District Organizer of the Longshoremen for the Atlantic Coast District.

During the war he rendered excellent service by his expert handling of coal at the terminals of the Virginian Railway, where he was engaged.

In June, 1919, he was elected Vice-President of the Atlantic Coast District of International Longshoremen, which includes all ports from Hatteras, north, with a membership of 8,000. In this capacity he maintains offices on Church Street, Norfolk. He is a good executive, what we call a good "mixer" and keeps his men well in hand without undue friction.

In July, 1919, he was elected 12th Vice-President of the International Longshoremen's Association at its annual convention held in Galveston, Texas. This body has 85,000 members, is affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, and is a tremendously important factor in our shipping business. Mr. Millner is firm but just with his men, and has had fewer troubles in his district than most of the ports have had. He keeps close personal supervision of Hampton Roads locals though his district work necessarily carries him away from home much of the time.

He is a Baptist in religion, formerly clerk of his church, a Republican in politics, a Mason in all of its branches, a Knight of Pythias, and an Elk. His favorite reading is



history and the current news literature of the day. He keeps himself well informed. He is one of the highest Negro officials of the powerful organization which he is representing so well.

Mr. Millner has been twice married. First, on June 10, 1907, to Miss Ella Burton, a graduate of Mission College of Norfolk. There are three children of this marriage, Robert, Willie, and Elsie Millner, the latter two being girls. Mrs. Millner died September 3, 1910, and on September 18, 1912, Mr. Millner married Miss Lavinia Thomas of Norfolk. There is no surviving child of this marriage.

George W. Milner has shown himself to be a versatile and capable man. No men have more difficult work than labor officials and the man who holds down a big district of a labor organization, thereby proves himself the possessor of strong qualities.

Mr. Millner is a director of the Union Commercial Bank of Norfolk.

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## ALONZO BRYANT LEE

One of the progressive young Baptist ministers of the Eastern Shore of Virginia is Rev. Alonzo Bryant Lee of Cheriton, where he is pastor of the African Baptist Church.

Mr. Lee was born in Nansemond County September 25, 1877, and is a son of Wm. R. Lee and his wife, Frances (Holland) Lee, he being the youngest of four children. His maternal grandparents were Thomas and Martha Holland.

On February 28, 1911, Mr. Lee was married to Miss Martha Freeman, a daughter of Benjamin F. and Nancy Freeman, of Phoebus, Va. Mrs. Lee was educated at the Virginia Normal and Industrial Institute and taught school for three years prior to her marriage.

The subject of our sketch was reared on the Nansemond County farm and went to the local public school. Later he attended the Hampton Normal Institute, taking the normal or night school course and learning the harness maker's trade. For his academic and theological work, he went to

**ALONZO BRYANT LEE**

Virginia Union University and remained at that institution from 1902 to 1910.

Mr. Lee lost his mother when he was fifteen and, in obedience to his father's wishes, remained at home till he was twenty-one years of age. After that came the struggle for an education and while the way was hard, young Lee refused to be discouraged and finally succeeded in securing for himself a liberal education and an adequate preparation for the important work of the ministry.

At an early age he gave his heart to God and came into the work of the church, joining the Zion Christian Church, of which his mother was a faithful member, when about seventeen years old. Almost immediately he felt called to preach and was licensed in 1908. Two years later, in 1910, he was ordained to the full work of the ministry by the home church and has since that time been in the active Christian work and pastorate.

He says: "In 1912 wife and I went to Chicago, I needing wider experience and information. While there I connected myself with the Bethesda Baptist Church, expecting to remain in that city many months, but the divine hand laid hold upon me and in 1914 I returned to my home state and entered into the full pastorate, for which I thank God."

He served the Macedonia Baptist Church in Essex County for three and a half years, from Sept., 1914, to June, 1918, and while there repaired the house of worship. He was called to the Trinity Baptist Church in same County in 1918, but the call was not accepted.

Since Sept., 1918, he has been pastor of the African Baptist Church at Cheriton. This work has prospered under his administration and the house of worship is now (1921) being repaired. Mr. Lee is 2nd Vice-Moderator of the Northampton Baptist Association.

He is a firm believer in what has been called tripartite education—or education of the head, the heart and the hand. Thus equipped, he believes the race will make rapid and steady progress.

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## **SILAS HENRY SHACKLEFORD, JR.**

In the olden days, the doctor as a rule compounded his own medicines, which he secured from the apothecary. As science progressed and remedies multiplied, the physician found it more and more difficult to carry with him all the different ingredients which his case required, to say nothing of the necessary equipment for weighing and measuring them. So there sprang up the profession of Pharmacy, which has come to be as distinct as that of medicine or dentistry. But the modern pharmacist is more than a professional man, he is a business man as well. In his professional capacity he fills with exactness and precision the various prescriptions which come to him. This requires not only knowledge of chemistry, but close observations and a steady hand as well. A mistake may render the prescription worthless or even dangerous. As a business man he not only buys and sells medicines but a hundred and one other things required by his customer. Thus we have the modern druggist.

One of the successful druggists of Richmond is Dr. Silas Henry Shackleford, Jr., who was born at Richmond, Sept. 1, 1884. His parents were Silas H. and Mary L. Shackleford. Silas Shackleford, Sr., was for many years the efficient sexton of St. James Episcopal Church. He was a son of Dangerfield and Maria Shackleford, of Rappahannock County, Va.

Dr. Shackleford was married on April 27, 1910, to Miss Minnie Evelyn Nelson, daughter of John E. and Elizabeth Moore Nelson, an accomplished teacher of Richmond. She was educated at the Richmond High and Normal School. They have two children, Aurelius Nelson and Louise Elizabeth Shackleford.

The subject of this biography grew up in Richmond. He worked with his father and went to school. From boyhood he aspired to professional life. He went to Leonard School of Pharmacy at Raleigh for his professional course and won his Ph. G. degree in 1915. At Leonard he substituted for

**SILAS HENRY SHACKLEFORD, JR.**

his instructor, Dr. W. H. Simpson, in the classes of Pharmacy and Materia Medica. Prior to that he worked for the Telephone Co. and was for a while employed at the Circuit Court of the City of Richmond.

Returning to Richmond after his graduation, he was employed as a pharmacist for several years, after which he went into business for himself in connection with Dr. Bowles, under the firm name of Bowles and Shackleford. They maintain two stores, one on Church Hill and the other on First Street. He was also Substitute Instructor in Chemistry during 1918 at Virginia Union University, at Richmond, his home city.

In politics Dr. Shackleford is a Republican. He belongs to the Baptist Church but has not identified himself with the secret orders, but is connected with the Richmond Medical Society, the Old Dominion Medical Society, also the Pharmaceutical Section of the National Medical Association. He believes that the great need of the race may be summed up in a few words: "Co-operation as it relates to the Negro and a square deal from the dominant race."

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## CHARLES ECHOLES MILLER

The Rev. Charles Echoles Miller, D. D., a prominent Baptist minister of East Radford, Va., though he has been identified with Virginia for a number of years is a native of the sister State of Tennessee. He was born at Winchester on Sept. 14, 1863, in the midst of the great struggle which was two years later to eventuate in the emancipation of his race from slavery. His father, Jackson S. Miller, was a son of John Miller. The mother's name was Priscilla.

Growing up in Winchester, young Miller laid the foundation of his education in the local public schools. When ready for college, he secured a senatorial appointment to Knoxville College, where he took the regular course, leading to the A. B. degree in 1889. Prior to this he had worked on the farm and at carpentry, later he learned the barber

**CHARLES ECHOLES MILLER**

trade, which he has frequently been able to use to advantage, but merely as a means to an end. His real work in life is the gospel ministry. He has sought to serve where he could make his life count for most. He was converted when about seventeen and while he felt called immediately to preach the gospel, he was not licensed till 1890. Six years later he was ordained to the full work of the ministry by the Mt. Zion Baptist Church at Winchester, Tenn. After definitely committing himself to the work of the ministry, he took theology from private tutors, receiving the D. D. degree from the Va. Theological Sem. and College. He is also an honored trustee of the institution.

Dr. Miller has had considerable experience as teacher both before and since entering the ministry. He has taught in Tennessee, Alabama and Virginia.

In the fall following his departure from Knoxville College, in 1889, Dr. Miller was married to Miss Dorsie Edna Wyate of Athens, Ala. They have one child, Viola, now Mrs. Walters.

Dr. Miller's first pastorate was the Alleghany Baptist Church, which he served for seven and a half years. His work here was marked by substantial growth. He preached at Parisburg three years, built a new house of worship and paid the church debt. He went to Bedford City for a year and a half and repaired the church. He accepted the call of the church at Salem and during a pastorate there of four and a half years erected a substantial new church, after which he preached at Abingdon two years. He served the Western Light Church five years and is now (1921) serving the Federal Street Church at Bedford City and the First Church at Bell Springs.

Dr. Miller believes that the small town and country pastorate offers an opportunity for doing important work in the kingdom, so he has not sought the big city pulpits. He has long been active in the organized work of the denomination and is a prominent figure in Baptist gatherings. He is Recording Secretary of the Valley Baptist Association and holds a similar position in the Peaks of Otter As-



sociation. He is Corresponding Secretary of the Virginia Baptist State Convention.

In politics Dr. Miller is a Republican and was a delegate to the Chicago Convention. Among the secret orders, he belongs to the Masons, the Odd Fellows, the Pythians and the St. Lukes.

He believes that progress of the race depends on religion and education and that these depend on prepared leadership.

Dr. Miller is a clear and forceful writer whose contributions to the press are widely read.

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## LILTON DANIEL BLANEY

Dr. Lilton Daniel Blaney, a successful physician and surgeon of Richmond, has, in less than four years, made for himself a prominent place in the professional life of the capital city of Virginia. This is due to the character of his work and to the fact that he took the necessary time to prepare himself before beginning practice.

Dr. Blaney was born at Staunton, Va., Aug. 12, 1875. His father was the late Charles Blaney. His mother was, before her marriage, Miss Mary Johnson, a daughter of Mrs. Rebecca Johnson. Both are still living (1920).

Growing up at Staunton, young Blaney attended the local public schools. He early aspired to a life of larger usefulness than then seemed to await him at Staunton, and so pressed forward to secure a liberal education. The way was by no means easy, but the boy was not discouraged by the difficulties in his path and worked at whatever offered to make an honest dollar. When ready for college, he matriculated at Howard University, where he did his literary work and won his A. B. degree in 1907. After completing this, he entered Leonard Medical College at Raleigh and won his M. D. degree in 1911.

During part of his vacations, he worked in Northern hotels and on the Fall River Line and during his last vacation was traveling companion for a man of large means,

**LILTON DANIEL BLANEY**

which gave him the advantage of extensive travel in America under the most favorable auspices. Something of his desire for an education may be inferred from the fact that when first going to Baltimore, he began work in a department store at four dollars a week. Here he was promoted from time to time until he reached \$15.00 a week, and after that found work in an apartment house at \$20.00 a week, with a promise of steady promotion. In spite of this, however, he had made up his mind to go to college and would not be dissuaded. He has never regretted his decision.

After completing his medical course, he returned to his home town of Staunton and began to practice in the same room in which he had been born. After three and a half years of practice there he went to Baltimore for a short while, but in 1916 removed to Richmond, where he has become fully identified with the business, social and professional life of the city. He is a member of the Richmond, the Old Dominion and the National Medical Associations and among the secret orders is identified with the American Woodmen and the Order of St. Luke. He is a member of the advisory board of The Commercial Bank and Trust Company, of Richmond, and an active member of the Sharon Baptist Church of Richmond.

On June 12, 1912, which was the year following his graduation in medicine, he was married to Miss Ellen B. Watkins, a daughter of Dr. Jones Watkins, a Baptist minister. Mrs. Blaney was an accomplished musician. She passed away on Christmas Day, 1918, leaving two daughters, Isabelle and Countess Blaney.

Dr. Blaney believes that the progress of his race depends on such fundamental things as sanitation, education and morals. He is of the opinion that much of the present day propaganda falls short of its purpose because it fails to get back into the home. He is himself a living example of what clean living and proper training will do for a man.

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## JOHN RICHARD CUSTIS

Every student of conditions in the South soon confronts the question of trained leadership. Many men and women engaged in religious and educational work are woefully hampered for lack of adequate preparation. So it is refreshing to find men like Rev. John Richard Custis, A. B., A. M., D. D., of Norfolk, who though beset with difficulties, did not rush into the serious work of life unprepared. Perhaps it was something in his own struggles for an education, coupled with the wholesome influences in an humble but Christian home which led him to dedicate his life, under Divine call, to the religious and educational leadership of his people. He also recalls with gratitude the help received from his consecrated teachers, Or. W. H. Johnson and Dr. J. B. Rendall, and especially his pastor, Rev. R. H. Bowling, D. D.

Dr. Custis is a native of Norfolk, where he was born on Aug. 16, 1875. His father, Peter Custis, fought for three years in the War between the States. He belonged to the 10th Regt. U. S. Colored Volunteers and was honorably discharged at the close of the war. Dr. Custis' mother, before her marriage, was Miss Laura J. Scott.

The story of how young Custis went about securing an education cannot be told better than in his own language. He says, "The lack of money was my greatest obstacle in obtaining an education. My parents had seven children to provide for out of scanty means. I entered the elementary schools of Norfolk at six years of age and continued each year until I reached the seventh grade, which I completed in 1891 with the honor of being the valedictorian of my class. My father died that year and his death threatened my future career in school. My mother loved the cause of education and desired to see her children reach the highest position possible in the educational world, sacrificing almost everything for my future success

"I entered the high school of Norfolk Mission College in 1891, working before and after school and during the summer months. I shared a part of my meager wages with my

mother. By much sacrifice, I succeeded in graduating with honor in 1895. After teaching seven years in the rural schools of Va. I felt a keen desire for a college education.

"Being advised and helped by Rev. A. L. Sumner, I entered Lincoln University in the year 1903 with the avowed purpose of preparing for the Gospel ministry to which I had been called. Here I was forced to make greater sacrifices because my expenses were greater. However, I found many friends at the University who helped me, members of the faculty and members of my class and school mates. During the summer I was employed at hotels as waiter and bellman. I was successful in completing my course in college and graduated in the "cum laude" group. My three years spent in the seminary were not so hard as to money for scholarships were awarded those students who completed a full course. I graduated in 1909 from the seminary and won the Hebrew prize of twelve volumes of the New Schaff and Herzogg Encyclopedia, which was offered for the best man in Hebrew." While at Lincoln he was tutor in Greek.

Dr. Custis began teaching at Accomac Court House, Va., in 1897. After organizing and grading the school at that place he was after two years transferred to Onancock, where he taught one year. The following year he was elected principal of the Joliff public schools, where he taught four years and sent out the first graduates from that school.

Having been converted at an early age, he joined the Baptist Church and in Nov., 1893, was ordained to the full work of the ministry in July, 1909, by the Council of Baptist Churches called by the First Baptist Church, Norfolk, Va., Dr. R. H. Bowling, pastor.

After completing his theological course, he was called to the pastorate of the First Baptist Church of South Hill in Norfolk County. There were forty-five members and a property valued at not more than a thousand dollars. Under his leadership the membership has grown to one hundred and ninety, a new house of worship has been erected and the property has grown in value to the amount of eigh-

**JOHN RICHARD CURTIS AND FAMILY**

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teen thousand dollars. The best part of his work cannot be told in figures because it has to do with the spiritual and intellectual development of his people.

On Sept. 19, 1907, Dr. Custis was married to Miss Esther F. Keeling, a daughter of Wililam and Mary Keeling of Norfolk, Va. Of the seven children born to them three are living. They are Lois K., John R., Jr., and Eunice F. Custis. Mrs. Custis was educated at Norfolk Mission College. Her husband gratefully attributes to her fine spirit of co-operation much of his success in his church work.

Dr. Custis is a Mason.. He is President of the Principal Club of Norfolk, member of the State Mission Board of the Baptist General Association of Virginia, trustee of the Smallwood Corey Institute and a member of the Executive Committee of the State Teachers Association. He is also conductor of the encampment for Virginia Colored Baptist ministers and church workers, and Principal of the Lott Carey School, Norfolk, Va., which has an enrollment of 1200 pupils and a corps of 34 teachers. The equipment includes domestic science and art and a dental clinic.

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## JESSE WADDELL PATTERSON

It is impossible to estimate the influence of a good intelligent family in a city or a community. We too often think of ministers of the gospel as mere preachers. Such a man as the Rev. Jesse Waddell Patterson, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Hampton, is more than a preacher, he is a teacher and a leader. While his sermons are of a high quality, his life and work as a pastor supplement and illustrate his sermons and make him and his good wife a real asset not only to the church which they serve, but to the community as a whole.

Mr. Patterson was born in New Kent Co., Va., presumably in the year 1848, the exact date being unknown because of the absence of written records. His father, Dandridge Patterson, died when the boy was still young. His mother,



**JESSE WADDELL PATTERSON**

Anne (Meekins) Patterson, who is still living (1920), is a daughter of Parthenia Meekins.

On Sept. 30, 1903, Mr. Patterson was happily married to Miss Julia Anne V. Childs of Louisa Co., Va. She was educated at Hartshorn College, Richmond, and is an accomplished teacher.

The story of Mr. Patterson's struggle for an education, reads more like a chapter from a story book than the true record which it is.

He started to public school, but conditions were such that he went only three months, after which it was necessary for him to go to work. He was a sturdy boy and hired himself to a farmer who paid him \$3.50 per month. He would study at night and for a small consideration the farmer's daughter would hear his lessons. As he grew stronger his earning capacity increased till he found himself making \$7.00 per month.

He was converted when about fifteen years of age and joined the New Elam Baptist Church. Even before his conversion and before uniting with the church, there was the inescapable impression that he must be a preacher. Many a time the boy preacher held forth in the woods, rather exciting the pity of the passers-by. During the hard years of his youth and boyhood he kept two things steadily in view. One was this permanent work to which he had been called, the other was the schooling necessary to fit him for his work.

Finally, when about nineteen years of age he felt that he must get away to school, so taking his savings from his small wages on the farm, he went to Richmond and entered Richmond Theological Seminary which had a literary department. He spent eight years at the Seminary and later, after entering the ministry, did two years of special work at Virginia Union University. His summers were spent teaching, cutting wood, hauling cross ties or at any employment which would enable him to go back to school the next term. While still in school he was ordained to the full work of the ministry and accepted the call of the Zion Trav-

eler Baptist Church, which he served for eight years. Before leaving there he had gathered material and prepared for the building of a new church. He preached at Wayland for five years and built a new house of worship. His next call took him to Shady Grove in Orange County, which he served for five and a half years and remodeled the house of worship. He went from there to Oak Grove in Louisa County, where he preached five years and remodeled the building. It will be understood that these country churches were served simultaneously by monthly appointments.

His next pastorate was the Trinity Baptist Church of Danville. This was a new organization with only twenty-eight members. During a pastorate of two years the congregation erected a church edifice and grew to seventy in number. In 1905 he accepted the call of the First Baptist Church of Hampton, which has experienced its greatest prosperity under his administration. A debt of nine thousand dollars has been paid, the building has been remodeled at an expense of ten thousand dollars, all paid, and best of all the church has had a large accession of new members. The congregation now numbers fifteen hundred. The above figures and outline indicate something of the activity and energy of Mr. Patterson but they tell little of the spiritual power of his work. That cannot be told in figures.

Mr. Patterson is an Odd Fellow, and in politics is a Republican. He is Auditor of the General Association of Virginia, a member of the State Mission Board of the Norfolk Union Association and a Trustee of Smallwood-Corey Institute, and Treasurer of the Baptist Minister's Relief Association of Virginia.

He believes that the progress of the race depends upon proper leadership, which must ultimately find expression through Christian education.

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## THOMAS JERRY WOOLRIDGE

The life stories of some of the men and women born in slavery, and some of the children of those who spent the greater part of their lives in slavery have in them elements of courage, determination, industry and steadfast purpose which make it hard for us to understand that these men and women are only one generation away from many generations of slavery. In a way it rather mitigates the evils of slavery for it shows that these men and women imbibed some of the qualities of those pioneering and conquering Anglo-Saxons who endured all things to subdue a wilderness and to achieve their own freedom, though their upward progress did not quite reach the period of seeing the justice of freedom for all people.

Dr. Thomas Jerry Woolridge of Blackstone, Va., is an excellent illustration of one of these life epics. He was born at Appomattox, Va., Aug. 19, 1881, son of Stephen and Pauline Johnson Woolridge. His father was a farmer, born a slave in Buckingham County, Va., March 5, 1849. His maternal grandfather, Stephen Johnson, married Sarah Christian in 1847, and most of their long lives, both of them reaching the age of ninety, were spent in slavery.

After finishing the country public schools at the age of 17, Dr. Woolridge worked on the farm with his father for two years and might have settled down to farm life, had it not been for Prof. G. W. Hayes, President of Virginia Theological Seminary and College of Lynchburg, who on the occasion of a visit to their home prevailed with his father and succeeded in getting his consent to let the lad enter Prof. Hayes' school.

He convinced his father that with proper training the lad could be a much more useful man to the race and to the world than he could be in his then position and it was his duty to give the boy a chance. On October 1, 1900, the father and son drove the 20 miles from Appomattox to Lynchburg, and the son matriculated and was assigned to the senior preparatory class.

**THOMAS JERRY WOOLRIDGE**

Here we will let the doctor tell his own story for a space: "Then my troubles began, I was a typical country lad, with all the characteristics of the countryman. I wore a three dollar suit, rusty shoes, and long hair. Most of the students were more fortunate than I, being from the cities, wearing good clothes, using good English, and apparently intelligent. I was embarrassed, jeered at, ridiculed and given the nickname of "farmer," but I toughed it out and made better marks than some of those who laughed at me. When the final examinations came on I unfortunately fell ill and continued so until the examinations were over and so returned home thoroughly discouraged. At the re-opening of the school in the fall, I asked my father to permit me to remain at home and work. Not having had any educational advantages himself, and therefore not fully realizing the necessity of insisting on my return to school he allowed me to take my choice and I remained at home three years.

"Then realizing what an opportunity I was about to let slip, I returned to college, remained for four years and graduated in the academic department with the class of 1908."

Dr. Woolridge was then 27 years of age. He had fair educational equipment, but no business, no trade, no profession. From boyhood he had always keenly felt desirous of being a physician, so taking his courage in his hands he entered the Leonard Medical College and was graduated with the M. D. degree in 1912. He had worked during summer vacations in the dining car service of the Penn. R. R. at New York and with some help from his father had pulled through to the goal for which he had so anxiously striven.

After receiving his medical diploma he returned to New York, worked until December, and on the 17th of that month appeared before the State Board of Medical Examiners of Virginia, sitting in Richmond, passed a satisfactory examination, received his certificate Jan. 13, 1913, to practice medicine and surgery in the State and March 8, 1913, began practice at Blackstone, Va.

He was the first colored physician in that locality and all the people were accustomed to white physicians. He had not the money to properly equip himself. His first month's income amounted to eight dollars. Here let us quote him again:

"But with the ability to stick despite discouragements, I held out until I had been given a chance to prove my worth by efficient service, my only advertisement, after which my practice began to grow and after a few months I was able to purchase equipment, keep up expenses, and pay off debts."

The battle was won. June 3, 1914, he married Miss Etna Alfréda Humbert, daughter of Alfred Humbert of Darlington, S. C. Mrs. Woolridge was a fellow student of his while at Shaw, graduating the same year and teaching two terms after her graduation. She had lost her mother in 1895 and was practically brought up by her stepmother. Dr. Woolridge bears fine testimony to the splendid helpfulness of his wife and counts that one of the greatest factors in his success. Of his marriage there are four children, Grace Humbert, Thomas Jerry, Jr., Ambia Anthea, and Alfred Leonard Woolridge.

Financially and professionally Dr. Woolridge has made a most gratifying success in the short space of seven years. He has an excellent practice, owns a home, other valuable property, bank and other stocks, and has won standing in the community. All this has not been done easily. There have been anxious days. To illustrate, on one occasion two sick benefit insurance agents (white) notified him that they would no longer honor his certificates. They had members in nearly every family of his clientele, who were also notified. This was intended to drive him out, but Providence so ordained that the Insurance men lost their customer and the doctor retained his practice. Again, because of a crime committed by some colored man, who made his escape, certain people announced their intention to take vengeance on the Doctor, merely because of color, and the Mayor advised him to leave town for the moment. His wife was too ill

to be moved, he had committed no crime, and so remained quietly at home, determined to defend that home if necessary, but evidently sober second thought prevailed and the trouble passed.

Dr. Woolridge is Medical Examiner for the North Carolina Mutual Insurance Co., a deacon in the Baptist Church, a Republican in politics, member Masonic order, Young Men's Brotherhood Club, G. U. O. of O. F., K. of P., Royal Knight of King David, Director of Peoples Bank of Kenbridge, Va., and a member of the Old Dominion Medical Society of Va.

For the promotion of the interests of the race in the State and Nation he can see nothing better than "fair play and equal justice."

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## ROBERT GREEN ADAMS

The record of a farmer boy starting out with nothing but a strong will and a desire to be somebody and do a man's work in the world is always interesting. It becomes all the more fascinating when the work is done for others and leads away from the farm to the city. Such is the life story of the Rev. Robert Green Adams, D. D., pastor of the Metropolitan Baptist Church of Portsmouth, Va.

Dr. Adams was born in Pittsylvania County, Va., near the close of the War Between the States. His parents were John Q. and Sarah Badgett Adams. His father was a farmer and the son of Salem Adams, who was a blacksmith by trade. Young Adams had the usual farm boy's life, except that he left home very early. Going to the near-by city of Danville, he attended the public schools, working between times in the Danville tobacco factories.

He was converted and joined the Baptist Church in 1876, being then about fourteen years old. Not long after his conversion, he felt the call to preach and as education was necessary he entered the Richmond Theological Institute, now known as Virginia Union University, where he spent several years in literary and theological studies.



ROBERT GREEN ADAMS

Mostly, he had to make his own way in school, but he gratefully recalls how Mrs. Mary L. Bonney, a Philadelphia lady, became interested in him and assisted. For many years he carried forward his teaching work and pastoral work contemporaneously as his school work covered a period of seventeen years. He taught a country school in Pittsylvania County, Va., one year. He was then elected Principal of North Danville public schools, where he taught for four years. Most of his school work was done in the rural districts and his first regular pastorate was of the Gilfield Baptist Church in Pittsylvania County, which he organized with twenty-one members out of his own public school.

His next pastorate was the New Hope Baptist Church, where a new house of worship was erected and the congregation built up. From New Hope he was called to the pastorate of the First Baptist Church of Danville and remained on that work nine years with great success. By that time he had attracted the attention of the brotherhood and was appointed District Missionary for Southwest Virginia under the New Era Institute movement, jointly supported by the Southern Baptist Convention, the Home Mission Society of New York, and the General Associations of Virginia, white and colored.

During the years spent in that service he made a record as one of the best missionaries of the State. He resigned from that work to accept the pastorate of the First Baptist Church, of Farmville, Va., and after nine years of successful work there was called to the Metropolitan Baptist Church of Portsmouth, where he has now been for four years. Dr. Adams has had a most fruitful ministry and when we consider the amount of educational work done, he stands forth as a man among men.

But the pulpit and the school have not absorbed all his energies. He is affiliated with the Odd Fellows, Masons, Knights of Pythias and True Reformers. He is an active Republican in politics, but has never sought or held office beyond serving as clerk of election in Danville, being the

first colored man to serve in that capacity, and later was supervisor of election. He is a member of the Bible and Publication Board of the General Association of Virginia. Dr. Adams served fourteen years as Clerk of the Cherry Stone Association and is a member of Executive Board of the Lott-Carey Foreign Mission Convention and Vice President of the Community Savings Bank of Portsmouth. During the war he took an extremely active part in all the war drives and campaigns and was in demand as a speaker at the Portsmouth Navy Yard and other points. Aside from his religious reading, he is most partial to history. It is easy to understand in looking over this brief account of his work why Dr. Adams is held in such high esteem both by his own race and his white neighbors.

Virginia Union University, successor to the Richmond Institute, as a measure of appreciation of his work, conferred upon him the degree of Doctor of Divinity. Dr. Adams was married to Mollie C. Simmons, daughter of James and Jane Simmons of Clarksville, Va. She was educated at Shaw University and after their marriage assisted her husband in teaching work. She is at present employed by the Board of Interdepartmental Social Hygiene of the United States. They have six children: Willie R., John B., Richard H., Irma, Adel, and Eddie H. Adams.

Dr. Adams, in response to the request for a suggestion as to how best to promote the interest of his race in State and Nation, responded by saying: "Right leadership along all lines."

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## BERRYMAN HILL JOHNSON

When one considers the numerous and inviting avenues now open to enterprising young men of ability and takes into consideration the opportunities offered to make money in some of the professions, it is gratifying to find so many vigorous upstanding men in the ministry—men who, for the good they can do turned their backs on fields which are

**BERRYMAN HILL JOHNSON**

more promising from a financial point of view and with singleness of purpose are devoting themselves to the work to which they are divinely called.

Among the young men of the Baptist denomination who dared to follow his "vision splendid," must be mentioned Rev. Berryman Hill Johnson, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Pulaski.

Mr. Johnson is a native of Dinwiddie County, where he was born Jan. 12, 1887. His parents, Richard and Bettie (Jones) Johnson, lived on the farm. Young Johnson remained on the farm during his boyhood days and divided his time between farm work and the local rural schools. When about eleven years of age he gave his heart to God and soon afterward identified himself with the Baptist Church.

Just as he was merging into manhood at the age of nineteen he yielded himself to a call to preach the Gospel. Perhaps more than anything else this gave motive and inspiration to his youth. He felt the need of better preparation for his life work and entered the grades at Virginia Union University, where he was to remain for ten years. In the latter years of his course, he combined theology with his literary work. During his first year at school he worked on the school farm and after that spent two vacations in the Pullman service. The extensive travel which was necessary to this work was found helpful in itself. In the meantime he had in 1910 been licensed to preach by the Mt. Pool Baptist Church and in 1914 was ordained to the full work of the ministry by the same church.

His first pastorate was the Mt. Gilliam Baptist Church in Louisa County, where he completed the church building begun by a former pastor. This was while he was still a student. He also served St. John Baptist Church, Richmond, fourteen months.

On the entry of the country into the world war Mr. Johnson volunteered and went into the government school for Chaplains at Camp Zachary Taylor. He completed the course offered in said school and was commissioned First

Lieutenant-Chaplain U. S. A. From Camp Taylor he went to Hoboken under orders to sail for overseas duty, but the armistice was signed and Chaplain Johnson was ordered to Camp Lee, where he rendered excellent service for five months. After that he returned to Virginia Union University, completing his course with the A. B. degree in 1921. In the meantime he had accepted a call to the pastorate of the First Baptist Church of Pulaski and entered upon his services there in July, 1919. The work there has responded to his intelligent leadership and is full of promise for the future.

Before leaving the University, Mr. Johnson taught in the grades for eight months. He also taught in the army for a few months. After the Bible, his favorite reading is along philosophical and sociological lines.

He is of the opinion that any program for the real progress of the race must include the whole man. Straight away this would call for open schools, open shop, equal protection, Bible study, clean recreations, and general organization of the race in the interest of progress on sound business basis.

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## CHRISTOPHER C. EUBANK

In a commercial age we are accustomed to measure values in dollars and cents. The richest man, however, is not the man who has amassed the most dollars, nor is the man who has the largest bank account always the most worthy example for the young people of his community or his race. In the Kingdom of God character is the true wealth and service is the measure of greatness. In this realm values are not stamped with the dollar mark but with the sign of the cross. Here one does not think of how many customers he can make but how many souls he can save and how many lives he can help. That's the business to which Rev. Christopher Columbus Eubank has consecrated his life.

He is a native of Mecklenburg County, where he was born May 1, 1875. His father, James Eubank, was a farmer and

married Mintie Moss; James Eubank was a son of Charles and Mary Eubank, and his wife was a daughter of Paschal and Maria Moss.

Our subject grew up on the farm and divided his time between farm work and the public school. After his conversion at about fifteen years of age, he joined the Hay's Grove Baptist Church. Some four years later he was called to preach and in 1894 was licensed by his home church; he was ordained to the full work of the Gospel ministry on May 11, 1903.

From the public school young Eubank passed to Boydton Institute, where he studied for six years, completing his work in 1903. He passed from there to the normal school at Petersburg, where he completed the normal course in 1907.

After entering the ministry, he pursued a correspondence course in theology leading to the D. D. degree in 1917. Mr. Eubank began his work as a teacher at the Boydton Institute and was connected with that school as a teacher for two years. After that he taught the Cedar Grove graded school, which he built, for twelve years.

Dr. Eubank began preaching as a licentiate in Maryland, but his first pastorate after his ordination was Hay's Grove, where he preached for five years and built a new house of worship. He served the church at Cedar Grove seven years and erected a church edifice there also. The work at Shiloh was his longest pastorate, as he preached there seventeen years; the church was repaired during that time. Williams Grove held him twelve years, and he is now in his fourteenth year at Amity, where a new church has been built. Mt. Pleasant in N. C. was repaired during a pastorate of four years. He is now in his first year at Cedar Creek, Calvary, and Friendship.

Dr. Eubank's ministry has been marked by great ingatherings. In his own churches, he has baptized an average of more than two hundred a year for the last seventeen years. In addition he is in demand for revival work both North and South. For seven years he has served as Mod-

**CHRISTOPHER C. EUBANK**





erator of the Bluestone Baptist Association in which he is very popular. He is identified with the Lott Carey Convention and is a member of the Foreign Mission Board. Dr. Eubank is a Mason and a Republican.

On Sept. 2, 1895, he was married to Miss Carrie E. Alexander of Mecklenburg County. She, too, was educated at Boydton Institute and is herself an accomplished teacher. They have a fine family of six children, Sally A., Edith R., Elizabeth, James, Lucile, and Willie Eubank. Mrs. Eubank is unusually helpful to her husband in his work. He frankly admits that she has been the greatest single factor in his success.

Dr. Eubank resides near Kenbridge, where he farms in a small way. He also owns property in Mecklenburg and is a stockholder in the Mercantile Co-operative Stock Co. at Kenbridge. Also in the Peoples Bank, which he has served as president for one year.

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## THOMAS MONROE ALLEN

The Rev. Thomas Monroe Allen, B. D., D. D., of the historic old town of Ashland, has been in the active pastorate for more than thirty years. His work as a minister has been characterized by long and successful pastorates.

He was born in Halifax County during the stormy days of the Civil War, on March 12, 1862. His father, Luke Allen, was sold during the war. He was the son of Sonia and Maria Allen. Dr. Allen's mother, before her marriage, was Miss Sarah Chandler. She was a daughter of Patrick Henry Chandler and his wife, Mary.

On June 13, 1899, our subject was married to Miss Maria Goodloe, who is a native of Caroline County. Miss Allen was educated at the Petersburg Normal and Collegiate Institute, and was, before her marriage, an accomplished teacher. She has been of great assistance to her husband in his work.

Young Allen worked on the farm as a boy and attended the Halifax County public schools. When about sixteen

**THOMAS MONROE ALLEN**

years of age he was converted, and later, feeling called to preach the Gospel, set about preparing himself for that important work.

He attended the Richmond Institute, changed to Richmond Theological Seminary, for six years, and was graduated with the B. D. degree in 1891. After the establishment of the Virginia Union University, he entered that institution and took a post-graduate course. In 1913 the same institution conferred on him the D. D. degree. In the meantime he had been licensed to preach and was ordained by the First Baptist Church of South Richmond and began preaching.

His first pastorate was in Manchester, but that lasted for only a few months, when he accepted the call of the Shiloh Baptist Church at Ashland, which he served without a break for nearly fourteen years. He paid off the debt with which he found the church encumbered. He preached at Brown's Grove for twelve years and made preparation for building. He was called to Shiloh at Bowling Green and has served that church continuously for twenty-five years. A new house of worship has been erected and the congregation has enjoyed great prosperity under his administration. He has been preaching at Bethlehem in Caroline County for fifteen years and Mt. Tabor, Shumansville, for eleven years. A new church has been built at Shumansville. He is also pastoring the Jerusalem Church at Doswell, so it will be seen that he is a busy man. A new church has just been completed at Doswell.

Dr. Allen has gathered a carefully selected library and is well informed. After his theological work, he has a fondness for history. Among the secret orders he is identified with the Masons and the St. Lukes.

He was for two years President of the Mattaponi District Sunday School Convention and is a member of the Foreign Mission Board of the Mattaponi District Association. He is also a Trustee of the Training School at Bowling Green, Va

Dr. Allen does not think of success and progress as ready made things. He believes they originate in the individual

and in the last analysis are based on Christian character. He has lived at Ashland for nearly thirty years, where he has an attractive home.

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## JOHN T. LATTIMORE

Within recent years the profession of dentistry has attracted a number of the most capable young men of the race. It is gratifying to note that the response on the part of the people shows a growing tendency to patronize their own professional men when they are properly equipped. As a rule the Negro dentist keeps a well ordered place and finds plenty of work to do. That is true of the subject of this biography, Dr. John T. Lattimore of Hampton, Secretary of the Old Dominion State Dental Association.

Dr. Lattimore is a native of Hampton, where he was born on Oct. 10, 1882. His parents were John T. and Eliza (Kelly) Lattimore; his maternal grandparents were William and Ann Kelley.

As a boy young Lattimore attended the local school. Later he entered Hampton Institute, completing his course there in 1904. He also attended Shaw University, Raleigh. When ready for his course in dentistry, he matriculated at Howard University, where he won his D. D. S. degree in 1910.

This simple narrative conveys no idea of the years of patient work and hard study which went into his preparation. Beginning at Hampton, he had to make his own way. This required energy, patience and perseverance at an age when the practice of those virtues is not easy. He never faltered, however, but held steadily and persistently to the course he had set for himself. On completion of his course he returned to Hampton, and right amongst the people who know him best has built up a successful practice. When the Old Dominion State Dental Association was organized he was chosen first secretary, a position which he has since held. He is also a member of the Interstate Dental Society.

**JOHN T. LATTIMORE**

On Nov. 26, 1913, Dr. Lattimore was married to Miss Hattie Cary Daggs of Phoebus. Mrs. Lattimore was educated at Hampton Institute and was before her marriage an accomplished teacher.

In politics Dr. Lattimore is a Republican. He is a member of the Baptist Church and belongs to the Masons, Odd Fellows, Elks and St. Lukes, is a Shriner, 32° Mason, as well as other local clubs and societies.

Dr. Lattimore has prospered in his practice. His investments and property interests are at Hampton. He is of the opinion that the progress of the race depends upon Christian character in the individual, co-operation within the race, and the building up of business interests and the promotion of racial enterprises.

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## WILLIAM CLEVELAND BROWN

Among the younger men in the Baptist ministry in Virginia, the Rev. William Cleveland Brown, now pastor of the Baptist Church at Lowmoor, Va., is doing good and faithful service.

He was born at Darlington Heights, Va., on June 6, 1887, son of Mason G. and Lucy B. Brown. His paternal grandparents were Jeff and Elizabeth Brown, his maternal grandparents Andrew and Maria Bailey. They were among the first colored people in Prince Edward County to acquire land.

The Rev. Brown's father was a farmer and a local preacher, but not a man of great attainments and did not lay great stress on education, hence the lad had only such instructions as could be secured in the local public schools. His home was remote from places where he could earn money to enable him to pursue his quest for knowledge.

When he was about eleven years of age he was soundly converted and feeling called to preach the Gospel he made it a point to come in touch with the best men, to read the best books obtainable and to put his trust in God. On July 9, 1909, he entered upon ministerial work at Middlebrook,

**WILLIAM CLEVELAND BROWN**



Va., having been ordained to the full work of the ministry by the Mt. Airy Baptist Church on July 9, 1909.

Early in his career he had recognized the necessity of theological training and succeeded in taking a course at the Virginia Theological Seminary and College at Lynchburg, from which he received in 1914 the degree of Bachelor of Theology. He also finished the academic course at the same school.

During his ministerial career he has served the following churches as pastor: Mt. Airy at Middlebrook for four years, Beverly Manor Church at Brand six and a half years, Sharon Church at Big Island six years and five months, and has been pastor at Lowmoor since April, 1917. This is the largest field he has had. Mr. Brown is also District Superintendent of the Virginia State Baptist Convention, and is active in the work of the Berean Valley Baptist Association. In politics he is a Republican.

Mr. Brown was married on Sept. 23, 1914, to Miss Gertrude Helen Richardson, daughter of Garrett and Martha Jane Richardson. They have three children, Ruth Esther, Beulah Janet, and Willard Clinton Brown.

Mr. Brown has such an intelligent and sane view of the best method of promoting the welfare of the race that it cannot be expressed better than in his own brief sentences: "The most enlightened among both races ought to reach down and bring up their less fortunate brother. The spiritual condition ought to be remedied. Higher ideals ought to be fostered."

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## FRANK MARTIN JONES

Rev. Frank Martin Jones, of Portsmouth who, although still comparatively a young man, has for nearly a quarter of a century been identified with the educational life of Virginia and has for a number of years been an active pastor in the work of the Baptist denomination. Like a number of other leaders in the religious and educational affairs of

**FRANK MARTIN JONES**

the lower part of the State, he is a native of North Carolina, having been born at Plymouth on May 21, 1876. His father, John Wesley Jones, was a son of Thomas W. and Julia Jones. His mother, before her marriage, was Miss Rosetta Guyther, a daughter of Dempsey and Mary Ann Guyther. The latter was of Indian descent.

Young Jones first attended the local public schools at Plymouth, after which he attended a branch of the State Normal School then at Plymouth. There was a theological course at this institution, which Rev. Jones completed with the B. Th. degree in 1903. As soon as he was able to secure a teacher's license, he began teaching and has been in educational work largely ever since.

On April 21, 1901, he was married to Miss Eliza J. Mercer, a daughter of McDonald and Eliza Mercer, of Plymouth, N. C. Mrs. Jones was educated at Plymouth and taught before her marriage. Of the four children born to them, two are living: John W. and Sabra T. Jones.

Having identified himself with the Baptist Church as a young man, Mr. Jones felt called to preach and wisely decided to take time to prepare himself for this vocation, before entering upon the pastorate. In 1901 he was licensed by the Zion Hill Baptist Church, and in 1903 ordained to the full work of the ministry by the same church. Being well equipped in a literary way, he decided to go to Virginia Union University for further theological studies. His work there was in the nature of post-graduate work. Moving to Virginia in 1905, he became principal of the Joliff graded school in Norfolk County. In 1916, a few Baptist church members (thirteen in all) asked to be organized into a Baptist Church at Portsmouth. Accordingly, the Celestial Baptist Church was formed and has grown from that handful to a membership of five hundred with property valued at \$2,500.00, free of debt.

Mr. Jones gives three Sundays a month to this work and in addition pastors the Emory Baptist Church in Matthews County, which was formerly served by the Rev. J. P. Wilson, now of Tarrytown, N. Y.

Dr. Jones has lived to see a number of his former students grow up to enter the ministry and other useful walks of life, both in Virginia and in North Carolina. He has taken no active part in politics but is identified with the Odd Fellows and other fraternal organizations. Of course, he is fully committed to all the work of the denomination both in the local and State Conventions, and is a member and Secretary of the Ministers' League.

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## **JAMES ALBERT HANDY**

Rev. James Albert Handy, D. D., who has made for himself a prominent place in both the business and religious life of the race, is a native of Maryland, having been born at Tyaskin, June 1, 1881. His father, John H. Handy, an oyster tonger, was a son of John Handy, a prosperous farmer and trucker. John Handy was the eldest of thirty-two children. He owned a farm and boat and married Miss Annie Wright. Dr. Handy's mother, before her marriage, was Miss Julia H. Nutter. She was a daughter of Gabriel Nutter, a free man, who was a boat builder and who owned considerable real estate, so that he was in position to leave each of his children a home. He married Miss Sarah Esley, who was a New England woman.

On June 28, 1916, Dr. Handy was married to Miss Agnes Belle Davis, a daughter of Eli F. and Sarah Davis of Philadelphia. Mrs. Handy was educated in Philadelphia and finished at Delaware State College and was, before her marriage, an accomplished teacher. She did summer school work at University of Penn. and Columbia University.

Young Handy attended the local public school and went to St. Paul's Industrial School at Lawrenceville for his preparatory training. He did his college work at the Delaware State College and Morgan College, Baltimore, graduating from the latter in 1908. He has the D. D. degree from the Bible College of Philadelphia. He attributes his success in life to his early religious training and his acceptance of the Holy Scriptures.

Dr. Handy found it necessary, after leaving the public schools, to make his own way in college. He was in mercantile life a while, did hotel work and sold nursery stock.

He was converted when about nineteen years of age and entered the ministry of the Methodist Protestant Church while still living in Maryland.

His first pastorate was the St. John's M. P. Church, Baltimore, which he served from 1904 to 1907. He then served the Mt. Zion M. P. Church at Norfolk in 1908-9. In 1909 he transferred to the C. M. E. connection and was assigned to the St. Luke Station at Norfolk, which he served seven years. At the end of that time he was promoted to the district and presided over the Petersburg District from 1916 to 1920, when he was appointed Financial Secretary for the C. M. E. Church, but lately resigned that position.

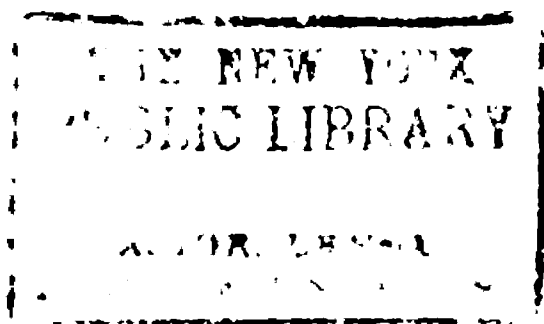
In addition to his work as a religious leader, he is also one of the substantial business men of the race in Norfolk. He has given special attention to banking and investments and was from 1914 to 1918 Vice-President of the Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co., and has been Vice-President of the Solvent Realty Corporation since 1916. He is also Secretary of the Tidewater Holding Corporation, and is a director in the Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co. During 1905 and 1906 he was agent for the Bay Nursery and the following year conducted a five and ten cent store in Baltimore.

Dr. Handy believes that the religious, intellectual, and moral training should be the fundamentals taught by every institution. He says the great need of the race and the nation is pure religion after the Bible doctrine. One dose of this will remedy every evil and make right every wrong.

Dr. Handy's favorite reading runs to the doctrines of the Bible and to history. He is doing work of a high order in developing real estate. He lives in one of the most attractive and conveniently arranged homes in the city. This not only indicates his own refined tastes but is a valuable object lesson to the people in building the right sort of homes with sanitary and attractive surroundings.

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**JAMES ALBERT HANDY**



## CHARLES WALDO SCOTT

Dr. Charles Waldo Scott, a successful young physician of Newport News, is a native of Allendale, S. C., where he was born September 28, 1882. Dr. Scott's parents passed away when he was still little more than a child. He left South Carolina when about twelve years of age, and worked in a law office in Savannah, Ga., for a couple of years. Prior to this, he had attended the public schools of Allendale, and, after his residence in Savannah, passed to Hampton Institute, Va., which he attended for four years. Here he pursued the academic course and learned the tailor's trade, which he used to help himself through college.

From Hampton he went to Shaw University at Raleigh and, after a term in the collegiate department, passed to Leonard Medical College, where he won his M. D. degree in 1911. He passed the State Boards of both North Carolina and Virginia and went to Reidsville, N. C., where he practiced for five years, beginning in 1911. He went from Reidsville to Atlanta for about a year and in 1917 located at Newport News, where he has since resided and has built up a gratifying practice for a man of his age.

Dr. Scott has entered heartily into the business and social life, as well as the professional life, of Newport News. He is on the staff of the Whitaker Memorial Hospital and is Medical Examiner for the Standard Life Insurance Company of Atlanta, and the Southern Aid Society of Richmond. He is also identified with the National Medical Association and the Tidewater Medical Society.

Dr. Scott is intelligent and resourceful and out of his early experience, and struggle for an education, is of the opinion that the thing most needed by the race is education. After that must come industry to make it profitable and a fixed purpose in life to make it worth while.

On Oct. 22, 1913, Dr. Scott was married to Miss Eva Price, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John W. Price of Atlanta. They have one child, Charles Waldo Scott, Jr. Mrs. Scott was educated at Clark University, Atlanta.



**CHARLES WALDO SCOTT**

While in school, Dr. Scott took an active part in college athletics, especially baseball. His reading runs largely to the current newspaper and magazines, though of course his professional reading has right-of-way over everything else. His property interests and investments are in and around Newport News.

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## CHARLES EDWARD BROWN

Whoever has studied conditions, especially in the South, must know how much depends in every way on proper leadership. Nowhere is this more important than in the educational progress of the race. So it is gratifying to find a man like Prof. Charles Edward Brown, Principal of the York County Training School at the historic old town of Yorktown. He is devoting himself after years of preparation to teaching and the training of teachers.

Prof. Brown was born in Charlotte County on Sept. 21, 1887. His father, Rev. Thomas Brown, was a Baptist preacher, and was the son of Joseph and Lucinda Brown. Prof. Brown's mother, before her marriage, was Miss Henrietta Morton, a daughter of Cooper and Eliza Morton.

Young Brown grew up in Charlotte County and made the most of the public schools, such as they were twenty-five years ago. By the time he was sixteen and even before, he had fully determined to secure a better education than was obtainable in that part of the State. Accordingly he left the farm and matriculated at the State Normal of Petersburg, and in four years completed the normal course. He would go North during the summer and thus earn money for the ensuing year's expenses. After completing his work at the Normal, he taught for five years at Charlotte Court House, where he succeeded in getting the patrons of the school to raise enough money to remodel the school house, he also succeeded in getting the school placed upon the State Graded School List, all of which was done without a cent's expense to the Board. Such was the character of his work as a teacher, that in 1914 he was called to the York County

1888

1888

CHARLES EDWARD BROWN

**Training School.** On coming to York County he found the Rising Sun community using an old store for a school house. Under his leadership the patrons raised \$1,500.00 and with the help of the Board built a modern four room school with equipment, worth altogether \$3,500.00. This property was purchased by the Government. Another thousand dollars was raised by the patrons, and now a new \$12,500.00 plant is to be built at Yorktown. Under his administration, the school has done good work. The curriculum provides for two years high school and a course in teacher training, which latter is making itself felt in the rising standard of efficiency in the public schools of the county.

Prof. Brown has done considerable special work along pedagogical lines since graduating from the Normal. He has spent five summers at Hampton, where he specialized in trade school and academic courses and work for principals and teachers of high schools.

On Aug. 11, 1915, he was married to Miss Annie Williams of Fayetteville, N. C. Mrs. Brown was educated at Kittrell College. They have one son, Chas. E. Brown, Jr.

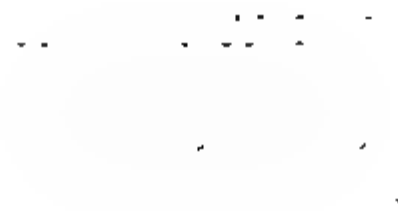
Prof. Brown is a member of the Baptist Church and a teacher in the Sunday School. He belongs to the Masons and in politics is a Republican. He also belongs to the National Negro Business League.

He has property interests in both York and Charlotte Counties, and in Wilmington, Del. It is not too much to say that the progress of the race depends upon just such conscientious, trained leadership.

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## REGINALD ORLANDO MUNDIN

There is something about the atmosphere of the historic old city of Richmond which seems to attract and hold the professional men of the race. The writer knows of no other city in which so large a proportion of the medical men are natives. Some of them, like the subject of this



**REGINALD ORLANDO MUNDIN**

biography, may have wandered away, but he at least came back.

Dr. Reginald Orlando Mundin was born in Richmond on Oct. 6, 1884. His father, Wm. Mundin, is a barber, and the boy learned the trade also and in this way helped himself to an education. Dr. Mundin's mother, before her marriage, was Miss Leaonead Apperson, a daughter of Louise Apperson.

Growing up in Richmond, young Mundin attended the public schools and later entered Virginia Union University as a special student for his preparatory work. In 1903 he matriculated at Leonard Medical College, Raleigh, N. C., where he completed the course and won his M. D. degree in 1907.

His vacations while in Medical College were spent in hotel work at the North. While in college he was on the football team.

From boyhood he aspired to be a physician, and his success in the profession shows that he made no mistake in his choice.

On completing his course and passing the State Board, he began practicing in the old town of Louisa, where he remained for four years. He went from there to Petersburg for two years. In 1913 he removed to Richmond, where he has since resided and practiced. While doing a general practice, Dr. Mundin has done post-graduate work in Chicago with a view to specializing on diseases of the Eye. He has the O. D. degree from Northern Illinois College.

Dr. Mundin is a vestryman of the St. Phillips Protestant Episcopal Church. In politics he is more or less independent. He has not identified himself with the secret orders but belongs to the Richmond, the Old Dominion and the National Medical Associations.

His interests and investments are in Richmond. Dr. Mundin believes that progress must begin at the beginning and have to do with the home and sanitation.

In December, 1920, Dr. Mundin married Miss Marie Celeste Bowling, of Norfolk, Va.

Mrs. Mundin is a graduate of Fisk University, the daughter of the late Rev. Dr. Bowling, and a sister of Rev. R. H. Bowling, pastor of the First Baptist Church, Norfolk, Va.

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## JAMES ALEXANDER VALENTINE

Some men struggle for years against the thing they ought to do and evade the work to which they are called, while others yield themselves at a plastic age to the Divine whisper and set about preparing themselves for the serious work of life. Among the latter must be mentioned Rev. James Alexander Valentine, A. B., S. T. D., a strong young minister of the A. M. E. connection, now stationed at Danville.

Rev. Valentine is a native of the old town of Petersburg, where he was born Sept. 16, 1887. His father, James Valentine, was a warehouse man. His mother, previous to her marriage, was Miss Cora Lee Catney, a daughter of John and Eliza Catney. John Catney was very active in local politics and held a number of official positions in Petersburg, being at one time a policeman of that city.

On November 1, 1917, Mr. Valentine was married to Miss Nannie Byrd DeBose, of Abingdon, Va. They have one son, James Albert Valentine.

Growing up in Petersburg, young Valentine availed himself of the public graded and high schools of that city and was a student at the Peabody School, so long presided over by Professor Shields. He did his more advanced work at Miller College, winning there the A. B. and S. T. D. degrees. After that he attended Lincoln University for further theological and classical work, from which he was graduated in 1914. Most of his young manhood days were spent in Richmond, Va., where his parents now (1920) live, and where he is well known.

From earliest boyhood, he felt that his life work must be that of the ministry and so he became active in the work of the church at the early age of thirteen. He was licensed

**JAMES ALEXANDER VALENTINE**



to preach in 1910 at Richmond and joined the Conference at Eastville under Bishop L. J. Coppin in 1911.

While at Lincoln University he was Secretary of the College Y. M. C. A. and spent one vacation in religious work in Pennsylvania under the auspices of the Y. M. C. A. Dr. Valentine's first appointment was to Abingdon, Va., where he preached for three years. He entered heartily into the work, building a new church, and at the end of three years was promoted to a larger field, going to the St. Paul Station at Danville, where he is now in his third year. He has just remodeled the parsonage at a cost of \$2,000.00.

Dr. Valentine is particularly enthusiastic in the branches of religious work which appeal to the young people and is Supt. of the Virginia State Allen C. E. L. He is also Secretary of the Providence Hospital at Danville.

Among the secret orders he is identified with the Odd Fellows and during the war took a leading part in all the drives and campaigns.

His favorite reading next after the Bible consists of history, philosophy, poetry, and current literature. Dr. Valentine believes that real and permanent progress can be achieved only "through application of the Golden Rule, clean living morally, confidence in each other and faith in God."

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## SAMUEL ARTHUR THOMAS

Dr. Samuel Arthur Thomas, one of the most successful dentists of Eastern Virginia, is a native of Portsmouth, Va., where he was born November 11, 1881. His parents were James H. and Susan Thomas. He went to the local public schools at Portsmouth during his boyhood and had the excellent advantages available at Hampton, where he took the academic course and learned a trade. He worked his own way through Hampton and when ready for his dental course matriculated at Meharry Dental College, Nashville, where he won the D. D. S. in 1913. During his course there, his vacations were spent in the Pullman serv-

**SAMUEL ARTHUR THOMAS**

ice, which gave him an opportunity for extensive travel. He has been to almost every part of the United States and Canada and thus gained experience which has been of great value to him. He took an active part in college athletics while in school and was on the foot-ball team. Being an accomplished musician and a ready speaker, he did considerable campaign work for Hampton and was assistant instructor in the trade department for three years.

In the fall of 1913, following his graduation from Meharry, he located at Newport News, where he has since resided. He maintains modern operating rooms and dental parlors on Twenty-fifth Street and has built up a practice of which a much older man might well be proud.

In politics, he is a Republican and is a member of the Baptist Church, being Superintendent of the Sunday School. Dr. Thomas is also active in the work of the secret orders and benevolent societies. He is identified with the Odd Fellows, the Masons, Pythians, Good Samaritans, Sons and Daughters of Peace and the St. Marks. He is also prominent in the work of the professional organizations to which he is eligible. He is Vice-President of the Old Dominion Dental Society, belongs to the Inter-State Dental Society and is identified with the National Medical Association.

He has had an opportunity to observe conditions in various parts of the country and is of the opinion that the thing which will contribute most to the progress and development of the race in America is more Christian service and education.

Dr. Thomas is frequently called on to discuss in the public schools subjects related to his profession. His property interests are in and around Newport News.

He married Miss Ethelyne Matilda Green, a teacher in the schools of Nashville, Tenn., also a graduate of Knoxville College, June 25, 1918. They have one child, a daughter, Bertha Lee Thomas.

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## **GARFIELD ROLAND MALLOY**

Rev. Garfield Roland Malloy, a Baptist minister residing near Norfolk, is a native of South Carolina, having been born at Society Hill in that State, on May 1, 1880. He is the son of Moses and Lucretia (Scott) Malloy. Moses Malloy was a farmer and the son of George Malloy. Beyond this, Mr. Malloy knows little of his ancestry because of the absence of written records.

On January 18, 1916, he was married to Miss Florence Brown, a daughter of Samuel and Hariett Brown of Richmond, Va. Mrs. Malloy was educated at Richmond and was, before her marriage, an accomplished teacher.

As a boy young Malloy divided his time between the short term rural schools and work on the farm, where his efforts were necessary to the support of the family. Speaking of his earnest efforts to secure an education, he says: "Having decided to try for an education, I set out in October, 1900, for the State College at Orangeburg, S. C., with \$19.00 in my pocket. After paying entrance fees and buying books, I had nothing left and there was no one from whom I might expect to receive any aid, as my father, who was then seventy years old, was expecting help from me. At Orangeburg, I did all kinds of work to get through. Indeed, at commencement, being without funds with which to go home, I would walk until I found a job to earn money enough to ride where I wanted to go. I remember more than once that I walked from Orangeburg to Charleston, a distance of more than seventy miles. In 1905, I completed the normal course at the State College and was on the program to speak, but being unable to get sufficient clothes to appear, I left and went to work. I remained out of school the next year, trying to settle some bills made during the five years preceding."

"During 1906 and 1907, I went to Benedict College, Columbia, S. C. I reached that institution with \$11.00 and it was not long before the college secretatry advised the president to send me away because I was unable to pay my

**GARFIELD ROLAND MALLOY**

bills. I was about to leave when Prof. Valentine, later President of Benedict, told me not to go. After this, I secured a job which paid seventy-five cents per week and my board, which consisted mainly of toast and coffee and some other light diet. I kept the job during the three years I was at Benedict. In summer, I worked at such employment as I could secure; this included work in a brick yard, trucking on the wharves, hotel work, etc. In 1912 I completed my college course with the degree of A. B. and entered the theological department of Virginia Union University the following fall. Here I worked as bellman and also in the laundry and was able to take care of my expenses. I was graduated from that institution with the B. D. degree in 1915."

Such courage and perseverance would not, of course, be denied and the success which has followed has been no surprise to the friends of Dr. Malloy. He had been happily converted at the age of thirteen and joined the Union Baptist Church of Society Hill, S. C. It is hardly necessary to say that he had before him the vision of important work in life, otherwise, he would hardly have held himself so rigidly to such a course as he pursued for an education.

He was licensed to preach the Gospel in October, 1906, and in 1915 was ordained to the full work of the ministry by his home church.

On completion of his course at Richmond, he was called to the pastorate of the Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church of Norfolk County, which has greatly prospered under his administration. His progress has in fact been remarkable. The work has been thoroughly organized, the membership has grown from 400 to 550, the property has been improved by the addition of a new heating plant and every department of the work has shown new strength and activity. The financial end of the work is a good index of the rest. The church promised, but never paid, its former pastor \$40.00 per month. It cheerfully pays Dr. Malloy \$140.00 per month besides what is done for missions and other

benevolences. He attributes his success to faith in God and self-reliance.

His principal reading has been along the lines of his work. Among the secret orders he is identified with the Masons and the Greek letter fraternity, Alpha-Phi-Alpha.

Mr. Malloy owns a modern eight room home near his work. He has no particular solution for the race problems, but says: "I think if we would talk less and do more among ourselves, such as patronizing our own race enterprises, developing the idea of thrift and saving money, it would make us factors worth while." He is a member of the State Mission Board of the General Asso. of Va., and a member of the Board of Trustees of the Norfolk Union Asso.

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## STUART SCOTT

Dr. Stuart Scott, a successful physician of the little valley city of Staunton, has not found it necessary to go away from home in order to succeed.

He was born at Staunton on March 15, 1880, and spent his boyhood and youth there with the exception of the time he was away at school or earning money to go to school.

His father, Leonidas Scott, was a barber. His mother, before her marriage, was Miss Polly Clarke.

The boy laid the foundation of his education in the public schools of his home town. When he aspired to a higher education and to a professional course he found it necessary to make his own way. He did not allow this fact to discourage him, however, but entered the Virginia Normal and Collegiate Institute, at Petersburg, and did his literary work at that institution.

When ready for his medical course, he matriculated at Meharry Medical College, where he won his M. D. degree in 1905.

Dr. Scott has been a hard worker all his life. Even as a boy of eight he was earning money as a milk carrier. After

**STUART SCOTT AND WIFE**



that he was collector for the Superintendent of the beautiful (White) Thorn Rose Cemetery of Staunton. He also worked at Hot Springs and thus gained much valuable experience.

He began the practice of medicine at Staunton early in 1909 and has steadily grown in favor as the character of his work has become known.

Dr. Scott is a Republican in politics and is a member of the M. E. Church. He is prominent in the work of the Odd Fellows and Masons. He belongs to the Old Dominion Medical Society.

On Dec. 30, 1908, Dr. Scott was married to Miss Augusta V. Moore of Lexington, Ky. She was a daughter of Rev. Geo. M. and Mary B. Moore. Mrs. Scott was educated in Kentucky and is an accomplished woman.

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## JESSE SWINTON JONES

A young man of thirty-nine who is working out a brilliant career in business is Jesse Swinton Jones, whose business office is in Norfolk, at the Tidewater Bank & Trust Co., though his residence is in Portsmouth.

He may, therefore, be said to belong to both cities. He was born in Hampton, Va., May 15, 1881, son of Joseph and Anne Lambert Jones. Both his parents are now deceased. His paternal grandparents were Simon and Diana Jones, the paternal grandparents were George and Julia Lambert.

As a boy young Jones went to the public schools a bit, served a little time in a floral establishment at Phoebus, and one year in Chamberlin Hotel. One year was spent at Hampton Institute. Yet an ungrown boy, he entered the navy. His diligence and intelligence won him the favor of his officers and they loaned him books which he absorbed like a sponge does water. He became Captain Steward and saw service in Cuban water during the Spanish American War. He was in Samoa in 1899 and served as Steward to the Joint High Commission which was engaged in partitioning the islands between the United States, Great Brit-







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ain, and Germany. After his term of service in the navy he conducted a barber shop in Portsmouth for fourteen months and a hotel in Portsmouth for eighteen months. Then he went back to naval work, serving from 1908-1910 as steward in the Navy Hospital at Portsmouth, then two years as messenger in the Navy Yard, his total naval service amounting to eleven years. This had been a fine training. He had been in contact with many able men, among whom were Kings, Emperors, Presidents, Eminent Jurists, etc., and knew how to profit by it. He was widely traveled, he had acquired good manners with his natural intelligence and this contact with big men and women, he had gained a surprising grasp on affairs public and private, he had gained poise and self-confidence without being either forward or pushing. Summing it all up, he was equipped for large things as few men are. It was but a logical evolution when he entered the banking field in 1915, assisting to organize the Mutual Savings Bank of Portsmouth, of which he was Cashier, 1916-1919. In 1919, the Tidewater Bank and Trust Company of Norfolk, which was the first Negro trust company in the country, owned, officered and managed by Negroes, recognizing Mr. Jones' capacity, called him to be its Secretary-Treasurer, which position he is now filling with ability.

In these last five years he has traveled both fast and far, and is now recognized as an authority on finance, commerce and big business building. Far and near he is being called upon for service to fiduciary institutions. He is Treasurer of the Tidewater Holding Corporation; Director Norfolk Holding Corporation; Director Twin City Amusement Corporation; Director Mutual Savings Bank, Portsmouth; Director Phoenix Bank, Nansemond; Director Albermarle Bank, Elizabeth City, N. C.; Director Standard Building and Loan Association, Portsmouth; and first Vice-President Bankers Fire Insurance Company of Durham, N. C., the first Negro Fire Insurance Co. organized in America.

In the fraternal world he is prominent in holding office and membership in the Masons, Odd Fellows, Knights of

Pythias, and Elks. He is an exalted honorary member of the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity. Religiously he is a member of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, politically an Independent. Mr. Jones is widely read along the lines of history, biography, business literature and current events.

He was married June 6, 1906, to Miss Hattie L. Bernard of Portsmouth. They have three children, Thelma C., Grant, and Marion E. Jones.

Mr. Jones frankly admits that his long years in the Navy was the greatest factor in shaping his life, which suggests the great value of the Navy as a training school for the youth who avail themselves of the opportunity. He also believes that it is useless to amass a vast amount of knowledge unless it develops the faith, courage, and practical ability to apply it, and that travel and contact is a wonderful help to this end. Mr. Jones' career is proof that years spent in "getting ready" are never wasted, for, as in his case, when the psychological moment came he was so ready that in five years he has traveled as far as the "unready" younger man might hope to go in twenty.

Mr. Jones thinks that the best way to promote the interests and welfare of his race is by business development, intensive and extensive, theoretical and practical commercial training with its contacts and experiences.

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## BENJAMIN ADDISON CEPHAS

In the business world most men merely drift and move along the lines of least resistance. The young man finding himself in the employ of a going concern, seldom has the courage to break away, take the chance of a new business line and create a business for himself. There are happy exceptions, however, in which the young man uses his clerkship or his agency merely as a means to an end and with confidence looks forward to the time when he shall himself be at the head of the business. The progress of business depends upon such men. It is to this class that Mr. Benjamin Addison Cephas of Richmond belongs.

• **BENJAMIN ADDISON CEPHAS**



He was born in New York City on Nov. 23, 1875. He came to Richmond as a small boy of five and secured his education in the public and high schools of that city. After finishing school he was employed in office and clerical work, where he gained good business ideas. After that he took up insurance work, in which he was engaged for twelve years at Newport News. Later he became identified with the Southern Aid Society and is now one of the general officers of that institution, being a director and vice-president. About ten years ago he went into real estate in Richmond doing a buying, selling, renting and loan business. He is the sole owner of this business and it has prospered under his direction.

On June 26, 1901, Mr. Cephas was married to Miss Fannie B. Dixon of Richmond. Mrs. Cephas, who was educated in Richmond was, before her marriage, an accomplished teacher. They have a fine family of seven children, Helen L., Marion V., Ruby B., Thelma J., and Leola A., eBnj. A., Jr. and James B. Cephas. These are all being given superior educational advantages.

Mr. Cephas is a member of the Baptist Church. He has not been active in the work of the secret orders, nor in politics. He takes an active interest in all matters looking to the business and civic development of the race and is of the opinion that the great need of the race today is more manufacturing enterprises.

In 1915 Mr. Cephas was appointed by Governor Stuart a delegate to the National Half Century Exposition held in Chicago. He is a member of the N. A. A. C. P. and during the war took a hand in all the campaigns and drives.

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## JULIUS DECEMIUS WARD

The Rev. Julius Decemius Ward, at present pastor of Pinner's Point Baptist Church and whose home is at 4004 Bowder's Ferry Road, Norfolk, is an example of a man who beginning his life work late, has by force of character and the

JULIUS DECEMIUS WARD

consequent good service forged ahead to a place of leadership. He was born in Norfolk County, Va., September 9, 1869, son of George and Julia Ann Patterson Ward. George Ward was an "oysterman." Rev. Mr. Ward's maternal grandparents, Randall and Mary Patterson, were reared in Gloucester County.

Young Ward's education was meager in his boyhood. He attended the local county schools a bit and a Boston grammar school a little time, but from the age of 13 to 26 he was an "Oyster Shucker." In the meantime he had been converted at seventeen and five years later felt called to the ministry. His response was not immediate but a bit later he entered Spiller Academy at Hampton, from which he was graduated in 1898, and then went to Virginia Union University at Richmond, from which he was graduated in 1902 with the degree of Bachelor of Divinity. In 1901 he was licensed to preach by the Jerusalem Baptist Church, and was ordained to the full ministry in the same year.

His first ministerial work was as State Missionary, and his years of service in that capacity carried him all over the State and gave him a very large acquaintance. Retiring from that work, he became pastor at Warrenton, Va., for two years, and from there went to West Point, Va., where he was pastor for two years. His next move was to the pastorate of the First Baptist Church of Pinner's Point, where he has now (1920) served for nine years. His present pastorate is in his home county. He is back among the people with whom he grew up and with whom he did business and his long service there with probability of a much longer, proves that there are times when a prophet may have honor in his own country.

Rev. Mr. Ward's father died when he was six years of age, leaving his mother with three children to rear and we thus get a sidelight on his belated entrance to his vocation.

Mr. Ward now gives his whole time to the ministry, so much so that he has no membership in any society other than the church. He is a lover of good Latin and Greek

literature and English of a high class, his taste not running to light reading.

He has a fine regard for the value of Christian influence and training, as he found those things the controlling factor in shaping his own life.

His political affiliation is with the Republican party. Mr. Ward considers thrift and education as the keynote to further advancement of his race, and there can be no doubt as to the value of these things in the building up of mankind.

Rev. Mr. Ward married Miss Idella Hughes, daughter of James and Laura Hughes, on November 12, 1912.

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## SAMUEL MORDOCK JOHNSON

Ministers of all denominations come and go so frequently that when one is found who remains in the same pastorate as long as Rev. Samuel Mordock Johnson has been at Alexandria, there is a tendency to look for the cause. Usually the reason is found in those sterling qualities of character which make a man "wear well" in his community, and this is true of Rev. Johnson.

He is a native of Albermarle County, which has given to the State and the nation so many men of ability in both races. He was born on July 25, 1854. His parents were both slaves. His father, Peter F. Johnson, was wagoner and a blacksmith. Peter Johnson's mother named none of her boys, but permitted them, when old enough, to choose their own names. The mother of our subject was Hannah Johnson, a daughter of William and Maria Edward.

Rev. Johnson has been married twice. His first marriage was on April 6, 1876, to Miss Martha J. Duke of Louisa County. She bore him three children. Their names are James, Thos. F., Lola M., and Jennie M. Johnson. Their mother passed to her reward in May, 1882. On Sept. 22, 1885, he was married to Miss Bertha A. Piper of Plainfield, N. J. There is one child by this marriage, Bertha A., now Mrs. Rose.

**SAMUEL MORDOCK JOHNSON**

It must be remembered that Rev. Johnson was nearly eleven years of age at the close of the war and, of course, had no schooling before that. After the war he worked on the farm and at a saw mill. Later he worked on the construction force of the C. & O. R. R. There was no regular schooling for him during these years. He picked up his elementary education as he worked, sometimes at night school, sometimes from private teachers. He joined the Mt. Zion Baptist Church of Charlottesville when about sixteen. Almost immediately he felt called to preach but it was several years before he was ready for the active pastorate. He was licensed by the Mt. Zion Church of Staunton and in 1876 ordained by the same church. Later feeling the need of better preparation he went to Wayland Seminary from 1881-84 where he did both literary and theological work.

His first pastorate was at Middlebrook in Augusta County, where he preached over four years. At the same time he was preaching at Greenville Church. New houses of worship were built at both places. After that he served Mt. Zion at Rapidan for six years. In Jan., 1882, he came to Zion Baptist Church, Alexandria, where he has had an uninterrupted pastorate of over thirty-eight years. During this period he served Shiloh at Gunston twenty-two years and is now in his twenty-third year at Oak Grove, Fairfax. He has had a fruitful ministry and has lived to baptize the second generation of some of the families whose members he brought into the church in his early ministry. He devotes his whole time to his ministry. He has not been active in politics, nor is he now identified with the secret orders. He is Vice-Moderator of the Northern Va. Baptist Asso. His property interests are in Alexandria and in Fairfax County.

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# JOHN JOSEPH BENJAMIN

There must be very excellent qualities found in the colored men of the Carolinas, from the way we find them scattered over the country, and making good in their various pursuits. One of these, the Rev. John Joseph Benjamin, now stationed at Staunton, Va., has given good service both as school teacher and minister of the gospel.

Rev. Mr. Benjamin was born in Marion County, S. C., June 10, 1880, son of Ephrain and Martha Marshall Benjamin. His grandparents were dead before his birth and he knows nothing of them. His father was a farmer and the lad worked about the farm, while picking up the rudiments of an education in the Marion Graded School of Marion, S. C.

At nineteen he left home and went to Virginia and entered the service of the Newport News Shipbuilding & Dry Dock Co. He had to work hard, both before and after school, especially during the summer months, attended night schools and never remitted his struggle for a fair degree of education. Early religious training strengthened him, while the Y. M. C. A., the teacher of the young men's Bible Class, and the College President cheered him on.

Converted at twenty-four, he felt the call to preach in the same year. Two years later he was licensed to preach. Then he redoubled his efforts for an education, taking both college and theological courses in Kittrell College, N. C., from which he was graduated in 1911.

In the meantime he had been admitted to the A. M. E. Conference on trial in 1908, and was ordained to the full ministry in 1912 by Bishop L. J. Coppin, at Hampton, Va. We can imagine he must have been rather busy in those days, acting the part as student, teacher, and preacher, all at the same time, and sandwiched in time to play on baseball and football teams.

His first regular ministerial appointment was to Cape Charles Circuit, Va., April, 1911, where he served one year. He was then sent to Belle Haven Circuit in April, 1912,

**JOHN JOSEPH BENJAMIN**



where he remained five years, remodeling the parsonage, building the church, and incidentally teaching school part of the time. April, 1917, he was sent to Deep Creek Circuit, near Portsmouth, where he remained three years, remodeling the parsonage and repairing the church at a cost of two thousand dollars, and was then sent to Allen Chapel Station at Staunton, where he is stationed at this time (1920).

Rev Benjamin travels have covered the Carolinas, Maryland and Virginia. His favorite reading after theological literature is American Law and Procedure. He is an inactive Republican in politics, and he is affiliated with the Masons, Odd Fellows, and Knights of Pythias, having served the last in an official way.

He was married June 7, 1917, to Miss Hallie Belle Traynham, daughter of Thomas Timothy and Adeline Traynham of Harmony, Halifax County, Va. Mrs. Benjamin was educated at Hampton and prior to her marriage was for twelve years a teacher in the city public schools, Roanoke, Va.

Rev. Benjamin has had the pleasure of visiting the General Conference of his church. His judgment as to how best to promote the interests of his race is through the introduction of more practical Christianity in business, plus organization by the people and the combining of their money in the establishment of great business enterprises of their own. Mr. Benjamin is now taking a course in law in the LaSalle Extension University, Chicago, Ill.

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## GEORGE EDWARD READ

Rev. George Edward Read, D. D., the devoted and efficient pastor of the First Baptist Church of the prosperous little mountain city of Covington, may be said to represent in his work and in his own person what one generation of freedom has meant to the race, as he was born on May 28, 1866, only about a year after the close of the great struggle which brought freedom from slavery for the race.



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 This issue, which was published in
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 It contained a number of articles
 which dealt with the role of the
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# ROAD

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G. E. Read.

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His parents were William Read, a farmer, and his wife, Sarah (Smith) Read. Young Read laid the foundation of his education in the public schools. To this day he loves the farm and delights to have things growing around him. Early in life he gave evidence of that mental capacity which was later to make him a leader among men. He was converted when about nineteen years of age and united with the Ebenezer Bapt. Church of Richmond, Va., and was soon was called to preach. He was licensed by his home church in 1888 and ordained by it to the full work of the ministry in 1892.

The family moved to Richmond in 1882, and the subject of our biography entered the Richmond Institute, now Virginia Union University, from which he graduated in 1891. He has the D. D. degree from that institution.

Speaking of his struggle for an education he says, "I had to work hard to get money for my schooling, as my father died when I was a child and my mother was my principal dependence. Mrs. R. L. Knowles, a white lady of Richmond, who employed my mother was much help to me. The Ebenezer Baptist Church of which I was a member also helped me in preparing for the ministry."

When the Spiller Academy of Hampton was taken over by the denomination and located at Chesapeake on the Eastern Shore as the Tidewater Institute, Dr. Read was made principal and the story of his work for twenty years is the history of that institution.

The late Booker T. Washington visited the institution and what he had to say is worthy of permanent record. When addressing the school he said: "Dr. Read and Teachers: I wish most heartily that it were possible for us to tarry with you longer than we can this morning, but I want to say to you during the few minutes that I am here that it seems to me that all during yesterday and today I have been realizing a dream. I had no idea before coming to this community and into this country that there was such fine work being done anywhere. It seems to me here that you have an ideal condition that we should strive to

reach in every section of the country. Here you have Dr. Read, the pastor and the bishop of this community and county living right among you, and I am glad that you have a minister who lives in the community among the people, who puts into practice in his own home and on his own farm the lessons which he teaches.

I am glad to see such excellent work being done in this school, such sensible work. And I understand from Dr. Read that the American Home Mission Society practically supports this work. As soon as I get an opportunity I am going to say to the officers of that organization that I have seen no school of the kind that is doing such sensible and praiseworthy work as is done here. You have a school and farm and other industrial work combined with religious work that is ideal, and I congratulate you, Dr. Read, teachers and pupils, all of you, upon what I see here.

"I very much wish that we could bring to this county and community the teachers from every section of the South and let them come here and see what is possible for people to do. Living here in this rural district, combining church work with good sensible school work it seems to me is about as near the realization of the ideal which General Armstrong and Dr. Frissell and others longed for and worked for as we can possibly reach in any part of the country.

"I had no suspicion before I came here of what I would see, and I assure you that I have learned much that I can put in practice in my own work in Alabama."

On June 26, 1894, Dr. Read was happily married to Miss Annie E. Gough, a daughter of William and Betsie Gough of Buckingham County, Va. They have two daughters, Jennie May and Flora Goldie Read. Mrs. Read was educated in Richmond and was, before her marriage, a teacher in the public schools of that city. For twenty years she was Assistant Principal of Tidewater Institute and Dr. Read frankly and gratefully acknowledges that much of the success of the institution is to be credited to her work. She has entered just as heartily into her husband's work as a pastor and that accounts for much of his success and popu-

**BAPTIST CHURCH AND SCHOOL, CHERITON; FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, COVINGTON, VA.**





larity. She has been Corresponding Secretary of the Woman's Baptist Missionary and Educational Association for twenty-one years and has contributed through her noble work much to the progress and development of that organization.

Dr. Read almost from the beginning of his ministry has been a prominent figure in the denomination. His first pastorate was of East Orange, N. J., which he served for four and a half years. He served the African Baptist Church at Cheriton, Va. In twenty years under his administration some three thousand persons were baptized into the membership of this church and he built one of the best church edifices and parsonages on the Eastern Shore of Virginia. In 1917 he resigned both his school and church work on the Eastern Shore to accept the call of the First Baptist Church at Covington on the extreme western edge of the State. Already the work is responding to his leadership and as careful observer and as good a judge as Dr. A. A. Graham speaking in the highest terms of his leadership on this new field, says: "The First Baptist Church of Covington, Virginia, of which Dr. G. E. Read, so long of tidewater Virginia, has become pastor, is the center of the business, professional, educational, social and religious life of the colored people of that town.

"The church building is well located and is an unusually beautiful brick edifice of modern design.

"During the few years Dr. Read has been serving this church its mortgage debt of some eight thousand dollars has been canceled and additional lots purchased upon which a modern Sunday School building is to be erected. The membership of the church has been increased and the church work greatly enlarged. Today it is among the foremost churches in its missionary and educational activities."

In politics Dr. Read is a Republican. He has identified himself with but few of the secret orders. He has traveled extensively in this country. His favorite reading includes the Bible, history, and biography.

For nine years Dr. Read was Corresponding Secretary of the Baptist General Association of Virginia, for nine years president of the alumni association of his alma mater, for seventeen years Statistician of the Lott Carey Foreign Mission Convention.

Speaking of the progress of the race, he says, "The hope of my race is Christian education. Right thinking and right doing mean most in the life of a nation or a race. It is the very foundation of true greatness and the Christ life. The race needs an equal chance in the broadest sense of the word that it may develop the best in itself."

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## WEBSTER LEE HARRIS

When the events in the history of one's life are mingled with difficulties and hardships, and he sternly faces them and heroically overcomes them, he is bound to win the confidence and respect of his fellow citizens. Such a man is Dr. Webster Lee Harris, a prosperous young dentist of the historic old town of Fredericksburg, Va.

He was born on Christmas day, 1889, at Caret, in the old County of Essex. His father, Jackson Harris, was a farmer, who was the son of Silas and Sarah Harris. His mother was Virginia Catherine McGuire before her marriage. She was a daughter of John and Maria McGuire.

Growing up in Essex County far removed from the centers of population there were only limited opportunities for schooling and not very much incentive except what the boy found within himself. For the larger boys, school days were practically limited to bad weather and those times when little could be done on the farm. Notwithstanding these days were thoroughly occupied, the opportunity to earn money was decidedly limited.

It was in an atmosphere like this that young Harris realized the importance of a better education than could be secured there and entered the Virginia Normal and Industrial Institute at Petersburg, Va., where he graduated in 1912. He taught public school for three years. His

**WEBSTER LEE HARRIS**

means were limited and the future by no means bright. This may have discouraged but could not defeat him. He himself says, "I unlearned and relearned the rudiments of a real education" during the four years at the Normal. Vacations did not mean either rest or play to the aspiring youth, but he worked in order that he might have means for the ensuing year's expense. As he progressed, he saw the advantages of a professional career and aspired to dentistry. Accordingly he matriculated at Howard University, 1915, where he won his D. D. S. degree with honors in 1918. The expenses for the dental course were earned in much the same manner as was the money for his normal course, however, he had ceased to worry about difficulties because of the new spirit of self reliance which he had developed. On completion of his course at Howard he taught at the above named school for one term, after which he entered upon the practice of his profession with great success.

In politics he is, of course, a Republican. He is a member of the Baptist church. He has a pleasing manner, and is widely known and admired for his broad sympathies and good will.

At this writing he has not married. He is a successful dentist, a man of high intelligence and a good citizen. With splendid training for his life work and a good practice already established he awaits with confidence the verdict of the future.

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## DAVID FRENCH WHITE

The Rev. David French White, pastor of the First United Presbyterian Church of Norfolk, Va., says that the greatest factor in shaping his life has been "the Presbyterian Church in her insistence on good character as an expression of the life of God in man."

Judging from his record, one must admit that he has lived up to the code of his church both as to the maintain-

**DAVID FRENCH WHITE**

ing of a good reputation and his virile work in trying to train others to do likewise.

Mr. White was born at Berea, Ky., Feb. 1, 1872. His maternal great-grandmother was a Hottentot woman brought from Africa and became a slave to General James Black of Virginia, a Revolutionary soldier. One of General Black's sons was the father of Mr. White's grandmother, Adline Black.

This grandmother appears to have been a woman of unusual force. In the same month that her mistress advised her of freedom, she moved with six of her nine children to Berea, Ky., and secured the position of cook at the Woman's Hall of Berea College in order that her children might have the advantages of Christian education. Her children did her credit. One of her sons graduated from Berea with high honor and is now a Presbyterian minister. Another son became a notable teacher in the public schools of Kentucky.

This grandmother was a woman of good sense and sound judgment, pious in life, with high ideals, possessed of natural refinement and absolutely fearless. Her husband, Wyatt Kennedy, was an ardent Presbyterian, and exerted a most beneficial influence over our subject when he was a small boy.

Left fatherless when a baby, his mother poor, himself a frail child, practically friendless, young White must have had heroic will power to make the struggle he did for an education. But he saw it through. The common schools of Kentucky, Biddle University through Freshman year, Berea College, Tuscaloosa Institute for Training Colored Ministers, Tuscaloosa, Ala.; Knoxville College, Knoxville, Tenn. He was graduated from Tuscaloosa in 1891, and received the degree of B. D. from the Theological Department of Knoxville College in 1903.

After his graduation from Tuscaloosa, he went to Atlanta and began pastoral work, having charge of the Southern Presbyterian Mission Church as successor to Rev. W. H.

Shepherd, who had entered the Congo Mission Field in Africa.

After six months in this work Mr. White realized that his attainments were not equal to the demand for the highest quality of service in the ministry so he entered Biddle University and resumed his studies.

He was thirty-one years old when he really undertook his life work in Athens, Tenn., where in 1903 he became principal of the Athens Academy and pastor of the United Presbyterian Church. Five years he labored there, then followed one and a half years in Indianapolis, Ind., where he built the Witherspoon United Presbyterian Church; then a brief pastorate in Richmond, Va., followed by a term as pastor and teacher at Prairie Institute, Prairie, Ala.; then one year as pastor and principal of Cleveland Academy, Cleveland, Tenn., followed by his four years at Norfolk in his present position as pastor of the First United Presbyterian Church.

Mr. White has combined teaching with his ministerial work so largely that it would seem as if his own struggle for an education has deeply impressed him with the duty of passing it on to others.

He is an ardent member of the Y. M. C. A., now serving as a director, and is also serving as Probation Officer and member of the Juvenile Court of the city of Norfolk.

Aside from his religious reading, he has had most pleasure in and help from standard works on history, biography, science and philosophy.

He has traveled extensively over the South, East and Middle West and has made a careful study of these sections from the standpoint of an earnest sociologist.

He has been married twice, first, on Sept. 6, 1900, to Miss Susie B. Titus, a daughter of Lewis B. Titus of Berea, Ky.; after her death he married, on Oct. 20, 1915, Miss Mayme B. Childs, a daughter of Charles W. and Rebecca Childs of Selma, Ala.

He believes that the best interests of the race are to be promoted only by the Christianizing of our public school



system, which he does not hesitate to characterize as utterly pagan. To do this, in his way of thinking, means the placing of the Bible in the course of study and requiring not only the educational test but the Christian character test for every teacher. He would like to see the white pulpit raised to the highest Christian standard by becoming fired with prophetic zeal for social justice and righteousness, and filled with the Spirit of Jesus in his love for all men. As a corollary to that he believes that the Negro pulpit must be raised by adequate education both literary and professional.

After admitting that there are many good men among both white and negro clergy he yet maintains that the white pulpit, as to far too large a part, lacks courage and sincerity, while the negro pulpit is too largely incompetent and un-Christian.

Many thoughtful men throughout the nation are coming to the same conclusion that Mr. White has reached, which in substance is that an education purely materialistic, which ignores the spiritual and religious, which deals only with the head and does not touch the heart, is not the foundation upon which a great and righteous nation can be permanently built.

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## PERCY CASINO CORBIN

In recent years the medical profession has attracted a type of young man whose place in the progress and development of the race is unique. That they are doing well their work as doctors, is evidenced by their growing practice and by their cordial relationship with the best white physicians. But they are more than doctors. Almost without exception they are men of college training or with the equivalent of a college education, so their leadership is intelligent and their example inspiring. In season and out of season they preach sanitation, education and better leadership. Dr. Percy Casino Corbin of Pulaski, belongs to this type. He is a native of Texas, having been born at Athens,

**PERCY CASINO CORBIN**

Texas, June 2, 1888. His parents were Edward and Sillar (Wright) Corbin. They lived on the farm and our subject grew up on the farm.

After attending the local public schools, he went to the high school at Corsicana, Tex. From the high school he passed to a private school at El Paso, where he prepared himself for medical college. He matriculated at Howard University, Washington, D. C., and spent one year at that institution. At the beginning of his second year he entered Leonard Medical College, Raleigh, where he won his M. D. degree in 1911. Insufficient means made it necessary for him to work at times while in school and the whole time during his vacations. He secured a place on the steamers of the New England Navigation Co., which not only enabled him to earn the necessary money for expenses, but also gave him many other valuable experiences.

Dr. Corbin recalls with gratitude the encouragement given him by his parents. This and the desire to be of some service in the world have been the chief sources of his inspiration in life, than which there could be none more worthy.

On completing his course at Leonard Dr. Corbin did not return to Texas to practice but located at the old town of Salem, Va., where he practiced for six months. In the spring of 1913, he moved to Pulaski, where he has since resided and where he has built up a general practice which would be a credit to a much older man.

In politics Dr. Corbin is a Republican. He takes only such interest in politics as every good citizen should. He registers and votes and does what he can to induce others to do likewise. He is a member of the A. M. E. Church and is a Mason. Dr. Corbin has also taken the lead in developing the business interests of the race in his city, being Pres. of the Pulaski Mutual Savings Society and Pres. of the Graham, Corbin & Lewis Concrete Block Mfg. Co. He is also Pres. of the Pulaski Branch of the N. A. A. C. P.

On Nov. 1, 1914, Dr. Corbin was married to Miss Carrie Evelyn Linscom of California, a daughter of John and Car-

rie Linscom. They have two children, Percy Clifton and Evelyn Linscom Corbin. Mrs. Corbin was educated in the South at Shaw and Fish Universities.

He believes the best interests of the race are to be promoted by race pride and race co-operation. He would like to see every Negro of voting age register and vote. He also advocates better educational and religious leadership, as well as better equipment.

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## SPENCER LENDOUS SCOTT

The most convincing argument for Christianity is not to be found in the libraries, but in the lives of noble God-inspired men, who, like Paul, are willing to "count all things loss" if they may advance the work of the kingdom. Many a man struggling up from an unfavorable environment has made his life count because he has been willing to follow the Divine leadership.

Such a man is Rev. Spencer Lendous Scott of Norfolk. He was born in Prince Edward County on Oct. 24, 1887. His father, Rev. W. M. Scott, was also a Baptist preacher. He was a son of William and Janie Scott. The mother of our subject was Mrs. Agnes Scott, who was a daughter of Branch and Bettie Scott.

On May 28, 1908, Mr. Scott was married to Miss Cora Belle Epps of Sussex County, a daughter of George and Eliza Epps. They have six children, Bernice, Walter, Delma, Dorothy, John, and Spencer L. Scott.

As a small boy in the country young Scott attended the public schools, but when he was twelve years of age, he lost his mother and after that the way was even harder. As a boy of nine he gave his heart to God, but even before that time had felt that his life work would be that of the ministry. As a small boy he never lacked an audience as he was content to preach to the cows or anything else which came "within sound of his voice." Anything found dead on the place was, in the estimation of the boy preacher, entitled to a funeral which he would proceed to preach. At

**SPENCER LENDOUS SCOTT**

the age of seventeen he went to work in the West Virginia coal mines and became a foreman. He remained in that State till he was twenty-three. In 1910 he was licensed to preach by the Mt. Zion Baptist Church at Nuttallburg, W. Va., and ordained by the same church in 1916. He continued to study under private tutors. In 1916 he accepted the call of the Fourth Baptist Church at Portsmouth, which he still serves (1920). A debt was cancelled and then another house of worship purchased. He has pastored Christian Home Church in Isle of Wight County three years and made extensive improvements. During the present year he was called to Ferguson Grove in Surry County, where the work has taken on new life under his administration. Early in his ministry he showed gifts as an evangelist, and is in great demand as a revivalist. During eight months of the current year he has had nine hundred and sixty-seven conversions. He has held meetings for some of the leading pastors of the State. He gives to his work in the church and his study of the Bible credit for his success in life.

Among the benevolent societies he is a member of the Odd Fellows and Knights of Tabor. At this time he is Treasurer of the Ministerial League of Portsmouth. He believes that the progress of the race is simply a matter of discharging known duty to man and to God.

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## ABRAHAM KENDRICK

Numerically the Presbyterian Church is not strong in Virginia as compared with some other denominations, but in the quality and character of its leadership, it is second to none.

Among the leaders of the denomination in the Old Dominion must be mentioned Rev. Abraham Kendrick, A. B., A. M., S. T. B., of South Boston.

Dr. Kendrick was born in Sullivan County, Tenn., very near the Virginia line. The date of his birth was Oct. 11, 1875. His parents were Abraham and Mary Kendrick. They lived on the farm and the son grew up on the farm

**ABRAHAM KENDRICK AND WIFE**

till he was fourteen years of age. Young Kendrick attended first the rural schools and later the Bristol public school. In 1895 he went to Hampton for his academic course. Lack of money made it necessary for him to work his way at Hampton, but he did not permit this fact to discourage him. He made full time at work during his vacations at Hampton and completed the course in 1899. After that he taught for two years in Matthews County.

In 1901 he matriculated at Lincoln University with a view to practicing law. Already he was a Christian but up to this time had not given the ministry serious consideration. As he proceeded with his college course, however, he felt borne in on him the conviction that he must preach the Gospel. He was not disobedient to the heavenly vision but after completing his college course in 1906 with the A. B. degree entered upon the theological course which was completed with the S. T. B. degree in 1909. Along with his other studies he had specialized in church history and thus won his A. M. degree.

On completing his course he accepted the work at South Boston, which has greatly prospered under his hand. The church has increased its membership and has extended its sphere of usefulness from year to year.

In the fall of the same year, on Sept. 30, 1909, Rev. Kendrick was married to Miss Mamie L. Scott, a daughter of John and Roxana Scott of Charlotte, N. C. Mrs. Kendrick was educated at Scotia Seminary, was a member of the class of 1902, and is an accomplished teacher. She was a member of the Faculty of Brainerd Institute, Chester, S. C., at the time of her marriage, and had been since 1905. She also enters heartily into the church work with her husband, and shares with him the love and esteem of a wide circle of friends.

After coming to South Boston, Rev. Kendrick saw the opportunity of building up a parochial school in connection with his work. Beginning in a small way the school has also prospered. It now has, after ten years of successful operation, an enrollment of one hundred and fifty and a



faculty of five (including Rev. and Mrs. Kendrick). The other three teachers are Mrs. Anna Amis, Miss Selehah Bullock and Miss Viola Ragland, graduates of Bennett College, Scotia Seminary and Ingleside Seminary, respectively.

After the Bible and theological reading, Rev. Kendrick prefers history. He was a commissioner to the General Assembly which met at Atlantic City in 1916.

He believes that the real progress of the race depends on Christian education and is himself an illustration of what this will do for the individual.

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## RUFUS AUGUSTUS ARTHURS

Rev. Rufus Augustus Arthurs, the enterprising pastor of the First Baptist Church of Harrisonburg, is a native of Falmouth, Jamaica. Coming to the States, however, at an early age, his education, his manner and his outlook are so characteristically American that one has to be told of his foreign birth to suspect it.

The date of his birth was Nov. 21, 1885. His parents were Thomas and Rebecca Arthurs. The grandparents were native Americans, having lived in South Carolina before going to Jamaica.

Mr. Arthur's education is almost wholly American. Before coming to the States as a small boy he had attended school only a few days. He landed at Baltimore and later made his way to Philadelphia, where he worked for several years. Here he attended night school and laid the foundation of his education. In 1907, he was converted and soon after felt called to preach the Gospel. With his call to the ministry came the realization of the need of better preparation for so important a work. Accordingly he matriculated at Virginia Theological Seminary and College at Lynchburg, where he pursued both his literary and theological studies. These were busy years for the young man. He was under the necessity of making his own way in school and was always a hard worker. He remained at the Seminary for

**RUFUS AUGUSTUS ARTHURS**

seven years. He was ordained to the full work of the ministry at Lynchburg in 1915.

His first pastorate was Mount Vale, Va., which he served for two years. The house of worship was repaired and the indebtedness of the church paid. Thirty new members were added and the Sunday School grew from fifteen to seventy-five. His next pastorate was the Mt. Airy Baptist Church at Middlebrook. Here he preached for two years and was called to Beverly Manor near Staunton and during a pastorate of two years at that point started a new church. In 1917 he accepted the call of the First Baptist Church of Harrisonburg, which has greatly prospered under his administration. All debts have been paid, the church property improved, a new parsonage erected and a hall, formerly the old church, renovated and made of great service in his work. It is safe to say that the church has not enjoyed a period of greater prosperity than that which has come to it under his ministry.

Mr. Arthurs is a Mason and a Pythian.

Looking back over his career he recalls with gratitude that the early influences of the life in the home were Christian. He has had the opportunity to study conditions both North and South and believes the thing most needed by the race is a better system of education, coupled with good moral training.

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## JAMES SOLOMON RUSSELL

Business has its captains of industry, the law its famous judges and learned jurists, other professions outstanding figures of world wide reputation, armies and navies distinguished generals and admirals, agriculture bonanza wheat farmers and princely cotton planters. All of these and many other contributing to the making of what we call civilization and chiefly on the material side, but back of all these stand an unselfish, self-sacrificing band, usually poor in this world's goods, not often famous in the eyes of men and without which band our civilization would be as





James S Russell



hollow mockery as that of Persia or Rome, which depended on the arm of might, and perished because it believed not in the things of the spirit.

So it comes about that the priest and the school teacher, often combined in the same individual represent the foundation stone upon which a true and permanent civilization must stand because they are the exponents of the moral forces which bind together all those things in life which make life itself worth while.

These men in their work are true heroes because they stand for unselfish service to their fellow men, and for loyalty to God and right. To them more than all others the world owes a debt, because without them and their work it would be an intolerable world.

The subject of this biography occupies an honorable place in this army of doers of good to humanity.

James Solomon Russell, D. D., of Lawrenceville, Va., was born at Palmer's Springs, Mecklenburg Co., Va., on Dec. 20, 1857. He is a son of Solomon and Araminta Hendrick Russell. His father was a farmer in humble circumstances. The close of the war and the freedom of the slaves found our subject a boy of eight in a country, poverty-stricken beyond expression by four years of desperate warfare.

Opportunity of any sort was almost non-existent. His mother, a slave woman, with a quaint faith, not too common in the materialistic days, had named him Solomon in the hope that he would grow up a wise and useful man. That faith has been nobly justified. At the tender age of twelve he began to attend private school, his monthly bills being paid by the sale of butter and eggs. Later the chance came for him to go to Hampton Institute and was eagerly grasped. With no money to pay his way he had to make his way through school. His winter suit when he entered Hampton was made from wool grown in the neighborhood, woven on a community loom, and fashioned into garments by his mother. This incident illustrates not only what the boys of fifty years ago had to encounter in securing an education, but also illustrates their determination. The devo-



tion of poverty-stricken parents for the old-fashioned home made wollen jeans of those days was something fearful and wonderful. In appearance though it would last forever, which was its greatest virtue.

Dr. Russell's struggle for an education was marked by hardships such as were endured by Booker Washington and other strong men of that day. With sheer determination and unwearied energy he persevered and after courses at Hampton Institute, Hampton, Va., St. Stephen's Normal Training School, Petersburg, Va., John D. Keiley Private Institute, and the Branch Theological Seminary of Virginia, now known as Bishop Payne Divinity School, he found himself in 1882 equipped for life work.

In his thinking as to how he might serve his people best, he had decided upon the ministry and on his graduation from the Theological School in March, 1882, he was ordained to the Diaconate of the Protestant Episcopal Church.

He was sent as a missionary to Brunswick and Mecklenburg Counties, and immediately entering upon his work in the summer of that year he built a church at Lawrenceville and opened a school in the vestry room.

The school-teacher-priest had found his life work. A young man of twenty-five he had grasped the great fundamental truth which some otherwise intelligent men never learn—that education to be of the highest value must include not merely the mental but also the spiritual side of man to be a character maker, and along that strong line he has pushed his work for thirty-nine years. Without money or influence, or reputation, the young man persevered, sustained by an unfaltering faith in God, and a resistless determination to do his part as God's man.

After three years he had to have more room and through the generous help of Rev. Dr. Saul of Philadelphia, he was enabled to erect a simple two story wooden building which was named in honor of Dr. Saul. Meanwhile, with his knowledge of the magnitude of the need constantly increasing and with absolute faith in God's help he planned an enterprise which to the average practical man must have

appeared as the dream of a visionary. Sept. 24, 1888, he opened up St. Paul's Normal and Industrial School with three teachers, less than a dozen boarders and no money. Three days later he received his first outside contribution, five dollars, from Duluth, Minn. The space that can be given to this biography does not permit dealing in detail with the intensely interesting history of the intervening years, and we must be content with results.

Always oppressed by poverty of resources, he has doggedly fought his way and today St. Paul's is a monument which would be an honor to any man. Through its doors have passed five thousand boys, girls, men and women for either partial or complete training. Character building has been the keynote and the record made by these students proves the soundness of the training.

Along with the training of mind and spirit has been training of the body and training in useful trades and occupations. The school has its own brickyard and the students do the building. It conducts its farming operations with students. It gives military training. The girls are as thoroughly qualified for practical life as the men.

It has a powerful Board of Trustees headed by the Bishop of Southern Virginia.

It has revolutionized material, moral and educational conditions among the Negroes of its home county, who now own 63,000 acres of land and pay taxes on a million dollars valuation.

The school began with one building, it now has forty, of which three are permanent brick structures. It has 580 students from 26 States, Cuba, Haiti and Africa; forty-two teachers and has 600 graduates; over 4,500 undergraduates; 1,600 acres of land and a plant valued at over \$300,000.00.

Summing it all up the following extract from a prominent local attorney of date Aug. 2, 1919, relative to the Soldiers Welcome Home Celebration reflects prevailing white local opinion.

"Yesterday was a glorious day for the Colored people, and I want to thank you and your school for the perfect conduct

of these people. They certainly fulfilled the expectations I had of them. I have always said the Colored people of Brunswick were the best in the country, and do not hesitate to say that it is due to your influence and that of your school alone, for you have done more for the race in this section of the country than any living man, and your school more than any other single agency."

Dr. Russell considers that the greatest factor in shaping his life was the early religious training by and the influence of Godly parents, aunts, grandmother and a wife who was a helpmate in the fullest sense and a woman of fine religious character.

His preferred reading has always been the Holy Bible and religious books. He has been rather an extensive traveler in our own country and has made two trips abroad, one in 1907 and the second in 1911. He has never been active in politics or fraternal societies beyond a membership in the Masonic Order. He is Treasurer of St. Paul's Benevolent Society which is but a branch of his main work.

He was married on Dec. 20, 1882, to Miss Virginia M. Morgan, a daughter of Hon. Peter G. and Julia A. Morgan. His wife, who had walked by his side so faithfully for nearly thirty-eight years passed to her reward on July 2, 1920. Of this marriage there are five children, Mrs. Araminta C. Turner, Rev. J. Alvin Russell, Mrs. Otelia Virginia Deane, Herman Webster Russell, and Mrs. Charlotte Baylies Birchett.

Dr. Russell has been as thoroughly consecrated to his work as it is possible for a man to be. It would be difficult to find a man who has so consistently refused to be turned aside by offered honors. Let us note his career in the church. A Deacon in 1882, Priest in 1887, appointed Archdeacon by the late Bishop Randolph, Oct. 11, 1893, on May 10, 1917, elected Suffragan Bishop of the Diocese of Arkansas, declined because he felt his higher duty was with his life work. In May, 1918, the nominating committee of the Diocese of North Carolina requested permission to use his name for Suffragan Bishop of that Diocese. He declined again and for the same reason. In June, 1917, he was given

the degree of D. D. by the Theological Seminary of Virginia. As that is probably the ranking Theological School of the Protestant Episcopal Church, as it has always been very careful in the bestowal of honorary degrees, and as Dr. Russell is the only Colored person to be so honored by that school, we have in that fact the most conclusive evidence of the character of his work as well as his attainments.

A successful life? Yes, emphatically, whether measured by the thousands of men and women who have come from under his hands Christian citizens, or by the material benefits which have accrued to his people through his efforts and influence.

Has he made money? It is not stated. Probably not. It is not important.

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## NELSON WILLIAMS, JR.

If questioned, a large majority of the most intelligent men and women of the race would say that the greatest bar to the progress of the Negro is ignorance, and hence the greatest need of the race is the right sort of education. And yet there are comparatively few men of outstanding ability who are willing to commit themselves to the work of teaching as a profession. A happy exception to this rule is Prof. Nelson Williams, Jr., of Richmond.

Prof. Williams was born in Powhatan County on Aug. 30, 1868. He traces his paternal ancestry back through three generations to Africa. His father was Peyton Williams, who was a son of Nelson Williams, who was the son of another Nelson Williams. The last mentioned was brought direct from Africa and sold into slavery and was connected with the Nat Turner uprising. Prof. William's mother was, before her marriage, Miss Nannie J. Randolph. She was a daughter of James W. Randolph the son (slave) of John Randolph of Virginia.

While our subject was still a mere boy, the family moved to Richmond, where he attended the public schools. It

**NELSON WILLIAMS, JR.**

would not be far wrong to say that he has been a student from that day to this. He attended the Presbyterian High School at Danville, and in 1889 completed the Richmond Normal and High School. Prof. Williams identified himself with the Baptist Church at an early age and has been deeply religious all his life. In fact, he regards his early religious training as the most potent factor in the shaping of his life. From 1887 to 1891, he was Secretary of the Y. M. C. A. at Richmond. He was for twenty years Superintendent of the First African Baptist Sunday School and was for the same length of time Corresponding Secretary of the Virginia Baptist Sunday School Convention, receiving an honor medal of gold, 1914. For years he has been a prominent figure in denominational and educational gatherings. He is now Executive Secretary of the Lott Carey Foreign Mission Society, whose work is in Africa and the West Indies. The work is rapidly growing in volume and importance. He is also Manager of the Sunday School Publishing Co. of Richmond.

For nearly thirty years Prof. Williams has been engaged in educational work, either as teacher or principal. He began in 1891 and is now (1920) teaching history and related subjects in the Armstrong High School. After he had been teaching for some years he began a college course through the summer sessions, and in 1917 won his Bachelor's degree at Columbia University. In 1919 he was admitted for his Master's degree at the same institution, specializing in history and sociology. His work in summer normals for Virginia and Maryland has been highly commended.

He is a logical thinker and a fluent and forceful speaker. His voice has been heard in every part of the country on citizenship, on religious, social, and educational topics. He has made frequent contributions to the press.

Prof. Williams belongs to the Richmond Business League, Lincoln League, Masons 32°, Elks, St. Lukes, Order of Shepherds, Love and Charity, Community Welfare Association, American Sociological Society, American Historical

Society, State Teachers' Association, and the Alumni Teachers College, Columbia University. In addition to his regular work he has given considerable time and effort to the great temperance movement, Christian Endeavor, and Sunday School work.

On June 30, 1916, Prof. Williams was married to Miss Addie Beatrice Gatewood, an accomplished teacher, whose story appears elsewhere in this volume.

Such, in outline, is the story of a life of large usefulness and effective service developed through years of patient work and struggle.

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## ADDIE GATEWOOD WILLIAMS

Mrs. Addie G. Williams, of Richmond, who, before her marriage, was Miss Addie Beatrice Gatewood, is a young woman of great versatility and rare accomplishments. Her record both as student and teacher is brilliant. She is a native of Richmond. Her parents were Edward W. and Rosa L. Gatewood.

On June 30, 1916, she was married to Prof. Nelson Williams, a story of whose work appears elsewhere in this volume.

As a girl Mrs. Williams attended the public schools of Richmond, and later the Armstrong High School. After her graduation from the high school, she matriculated at Virginia Normal and Industrial Institute at Petersburg, from which she holds a diploma. She also won a special diploma from the Teachers' College of Columbia University. In the spring of 1921, she finished the dental course at Howard University with the D. D. S. degree with high honors. At an early age she made herself proficient in stenography, also in fashionable dressmaking and used her knowledge of these to help herself through college. From 1909 to 1912 she was employed as clerk-stenographer and bookkeeper for the Sunday School Publishing Co. She must have done her work well as since that time she has been Secretary of the concern.





From 1914 to 1916 she was a teacher and supervisor in the Richmond schools.

Dr. Williams is a young woman of originality and invests whatever she does with the charm of her personality. If she has not found just what she wanted in the conventional courses of study she has not hesitated to go elsewhere for it. She studied Latin under Dr. Dixie E. Williams, of Hartshorn College, and Physical Science and Spanish in Columbia University. She has a good voice and studied music under Mesdames R. K. Jones, of Hartshorn, and O. C. Bolden of, Richmond School of Music. She has studied the arts in Washington, New York, and Boston. In all these places she is popular.

She enjoys the distinction of being the first woman in Virginia to take up the profession of dentistry.

Dr. Williams is a member of the Baptist church. Among the secret and benevolent orders, she belongs to the St. Lukes and the Eastern Star. She is also a member of the N. A. A. C. P. and is identified with a number of literary and social clubs.

She believes that the progress of the race is to be promoted by giving to the Negro equal educational facilities and by opening to him the door of opportunity.

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## MARSHALL HENRY PAYNE

Rev. Marshall Henry Payne, pastor of the Mt. Vernon Baptist Church of Richmond, enjoys the distinction of being the founder and up to this time (1920) the sole pastor of that church.

He was born at Marysville, in Campbell County, right in the midst of the war on March 1, 1862. His parents were Henry and Matilda Payne. Mr. Payne has been a hard worker all his life. Early in life he went to Charlotte County and there laid the foundation of his education in the public schools.



When just emerging from youth to manhood, at about eighteen years of age, he experienced the new birth and immediately felt led of the spirit to preach the Gospel.

He worked in a private family and after coming to Richmond worked in a tobacco factory. In 1896 he was licensed to preach by the Fifth Street Baptist Church. He began preaching, but the results seemed rather disappointing. In the meantime, he had taken up insurance work. One day while at his work it occurred to him that perhaps God could use him more effectively along other lines. He at once made it a matter of prayer and clearly and promptly the way opened up for successful mission work on Seventeenth Street, which has long been recognized as one of the hardest points to deal with in the city. This work was carried on for two years, from 1902 to 1904.

A more inviting field then opened up near the Fredericksburg Shops and he began work there. Here he was even more successful and his work was blessed with a glorious revival which resulted in the organization and building of the Mt. Vernon Baptist Church. Later a splendid new house of worship was erected on Wallace Street and the small beginning of only a handful of five members with which the church was organized on July 25, 1905, has grown to three hundred and sixty members with all the appointments of a prosperous well ordered congregation.

They have preaching every Sunday in the month. Elder Payne is a practical pastor and a popular preacher.

After deciding to take up the work of the ministry he attended the Richmond Theological Seminary for two years and later Virginia Union University one year. He was ordained to the full work of the ministry on Dec. 12, 1906. He is Chairman of the Foreign Mission Board of the Virginia Baptist State Convention.

On June 1, 1892, Mr. Payne was married to Miss Georgia A. Summerville of Petersburg. They have an attractive home on Wallace Street near the church.

Mr. Payne is a man who has done his work faithfully and well. He has sought to lead his people in the ways of

right thinking and right living. He holds to the Old Book and finds no place in his preaching or in his work for the New Thought or Higher Criticism.

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## ARTHUR JAMES WELLS

Dr. Arthur James Wells, a successful dentist of Norfolk, is one of the younger of the professional men of that prosperous city. Dr. Wells is a native of Norfolk, and unlike a majority of young men, who consider it necessary to go away from home in order to succeed, he has succeeded in his home city, among his friends and schoolmates and in the midst of those who knew his character and abilities best. This is in itself a flattering testimonial to any young man. Dr. Wells is a son of James F. Wells. As a boy, he attended the local public schools, from which he passed to Hampton Institute. Later he attended Ferris Institute at Big Rapids, Mich., for one term. Having decided to study dentistry, he matriculated at Northwestern University, where he won his D. D. S. in 1919. His way in school was not easy, but he did not permit this to discourage him. He was inspired by the examples of successful men, whom he observed, and by the reading of the biographies of men who had struggled up to places of usefulness and leadership.

On completion of his course, he returned to Norfolk and began the practice. He maintains up-to-date dental office and operating room on Church Street.

Dr. Wells is a member of the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity and belongs to the Baptist Church. He is entering heartily into the social, business, and professional life of the city. He is a member of the Old Dominion Dental Association, also the Inter-State Dental Association.

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**ARTHUR JAMES WELLS**

# HENRY RANDOLPH

Rev. Henry Randolph, pastor of the Bethlehem Baptist Church, of Richmond, is a workman who "needeth not to be ashamed of his workmanship." He has been a capable farmer, a good driver, and a strong and faithful laborer, but in none of these fields did he find the real work of life. That, for him, was to be found in preaching the Gospel only. He has done more than merely preach to his people from the pulpit. That has been the easiest part of his ministry. He has preached more, perhaps, with his life than with his voice. In his pulpit he is accustomed to "cry aloud and spare not."

He does not concern himself with things that are remote or which do not tempt his people. His messages deal with those things which corrupt the lives of his own church members. With simple faith in God to keep him clean, he goes in and out before his people and by his own example points the way.

He was born in Chestetrfield County on Jan. 1, 1866, but was reared in Powhatan County. His father, Fisher Randolph, was his master's driver before Emancipation. After the war he farmed, and Henry worked on the farm till he was twenty. Fisher Randolph was a son of Abram Randolph. Rev. Randolph's mother was, before her marriage, Susan Scott, a daughter of Lizzie Scott.

On May 5, 1893, Rev. Randolph was married to Miss Carrie Allen, of Richmond. They have three children: Bessie (Mrs. Price), Lee, and Elizabeth Randolph.

Rev. Randolph's education was limited to the public schools of Powhatan County, and to night school while working as a laborer.

While still a boy in his teens on the farm, he was happily converted, and with his conversion came the call to preach the Gospel.

There were years of struggle and hard work between that time and the time when he actually entered upon the work, but he never abandoned it nor tried to run away

**HENRY RANDOLPH**

from the call. He has been a hard worker all his life and has done a great deal of manual labor. He has always had the confidence and the sympathy of his employers. Sometimes when wages were low and work scarce, the way was hard enough, but the man's faith sustained him so that he continued to work and to wait.

In 1905 he was licensed and began preaching. On July 20, 1908, he was ordained to the full work of the Gospel ministry by the Fourth Baptist Church.

His first pastorate was the Nazerine Baptist Church in Hanover County, which he served for eight years. He pastored the Mt. Calvary Church in Caroline County for eleven years. Here his labors were blessed by good growth in the work. He also preached at Zion Hill in Hanover County. All this time he kept up his work in various positions, but when he found it necessary to give up his preaching or his job, always let the job go, kept on preaching and trusted God to see him through. His greatest work has been done at Bethlehem Church, Richmond. When he began, there were a dozen members. That was six years ago. Now there are nearly five hundred members. The cash assets at that time amounted to forty-seven cents. Now the church has three thousand dollars in bank, and is planning a new church. Each year has been marked by a good revival. For two years Rev. Randolph has served the St. James Church. By giving them afternoon appointments, he is able to meet them twice a month. As he looks back over his career, he can say in language of the Bible, "Hitherto hath the Lord helped me."

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## CHESTER ARTHUR LINDSEY

Among the young ministers and educators of the Baptist denomination in the Old Dominion, none have made a finer record than Rev. Chester Arthur Lindsey, of Richmond. Mr. Lindsey is a native of Caroline County, where he was born Oct. 2, 1882. His father, Henry Lindsey, was a farmer, and was the son of McKenzie and Lucy Lindsey,



**CHESTER ARTHUR LINDSEY**

former slaves. Rev. Lindsey's mother was, before her marriage, Cinderilla Young, a daughter of Washington and Julia Ann Young. Rev. Lindsey grew up on the farm in Caroline County, where he attended the public schools till he was seventeen years of age. In 1895 he was converted and joined the Jerusalem Baptist Church. Feeling called to preach the Gospel, he determined to equip himself in a manner worthy of this important work. He was licensed to preach by the home church in 1910. In 1911, he matriculated at Va. Union University and, in 1915, won his Bachelor's degree. Prior to that he took his theological course at the Va. Theological Seminary and College, at Lynchburg, which led to the B. D. degree in 1909. It will be observed that he reversed the usual order and took theology before his regular college work.

Dr. Lindsey made a brilliant record as a student and early displayed rare ability as a teacher.

He began teaching at the King and Queen High School in 1904, where he remained four years. Even while in college he was a student teacher. He taught history and english for three years at the Seminary. On completion of his college course, he began teaching in Armstrong High School, where he has remained till the present (1920).

His first pastorate was the Mt. Gilead Baptist church in Louisa County, which he has served eight years, during which time a new house of worship has been erected. He is also pastor of Beulah church in Spottsylvania County, which he has served for five years, and thoroughly remodeled the church. He pastored St. James, in Caroline County, three years. While on that work a new house of worship was erected.

Dr. Lindsey, while in college, had but little time for athletics, none for the purely professional sort. Being under the necessity of making his own way, he learned to value his time, and was recognized as a hard worker. His vacations were spent first in hotel work, later in the ministry.

His favorite reading is along the line of his work, and after that history.

On Aug. 29, 1917, Dr. Lindsey was happily married to Miss Lillian Banks, a daughter of Albert and Annie L. Banks, of Caroline County. Mrs. Lindsey was educated at Petersburg Normal. They have two children, Olivia Beatrice, and Chester A. Lindsey, Jr.

Dr. Lindsey takes an active part in the organized efforts of his race. He belongs to the St. Luke's, is Chaplain of the Athenian Literary Society, Moderator of the Mattapani Baptist Association, President of the Richmond Teachers' Association, a member of the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity, a director of the Virginia Home Supply Corporation, and a Master Mason.

He believes that the permanent progress of the race must rest on a greater reverence for and a deeper appreciation of God, and a more thorough co-operation in all efforts for Negro uplift.

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## WALTER BROWN

Richmond has a splendid group of young professional men who are a credit to the race and an ornament to the medical profession. Among them is Dr. Walter Brown. He is a native of Richmond. It is a fact worthy of note that a large number of successful professional men of Richmond have worked out their successes at home. It frequently happens that the young professional man feels that he must go away from home to get a start in life.

Dr. Brown was born on Nov. 8, 1872. His father, Alexander Brown, was a mechanic, and married Miss Pauline Ellis, who was a daughter of Richard and Diana Ellis.

Young Brown grew up in Richmond, and when he came of school age entered the local schools and completed the high school course, then more extensive than now. Between sessions he worked at hotels. As a boy he had the usual fancies about what he wanted to do in life. These ideals changed as the scenes changed, but very early in life he became fixed in the determination to be a physician, and after that held firmly to that resolution.



As he grew to young manhood, he joined his brother in business at Newport News and thus followed merchandising for several years. This, however, was merely a means to an end. So in 1901, he broke away from business and matriculated at Leonard Medical College, where he won his M. D. degree in 1905, winning prizes in surgery and physiology. On completion of his course, he returned to Richmond and was in hospital work for a while, but gradually worked into the general practice of medicine. In the fifteen years he has been practicing he has made a name for himself, established a home, built a lucrative practice, and is recognized as one of the substantial citizens of the race in Richmond.

He enjoys the distinction of being surgeon for the Virginia Railway and Power Co. He is identified with the Richmond, the Old Dominion, and the National Medical organizations.

On June 3, 1908, Dr. Brown was happily married to Miss Mary McDougald, of Whiteville, N. C. She was educated at Shaw University. They have one child, Emma Corinne Brown, and have adopted two nephews, James Fletcher and Danton Lawrence McDougald, who are sons of the late Dr. McDougald, of Atlanta, Ga. Dr. Brown is a Republican in politics and is a member of the Baptist Church.

Naturally his professional reading and the current news engage most of his time for reading, but he indulges a preference for history when the opportunity offers. Among the secret orders and benevolent societies he belongs to the St. Lukes, the Pythians, and the Odd Fellows. He is examiner for the latter order.

Dr. Brown believes that ignorance is the greatest obstacle in the way of progress and that consequently education is the greatest single need of the race.

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# **WILLIAM TECUMSEH FOREMAN**

The outstanding feature of Dr. Foreman's career is the fact that while yet in his early prime, he has been able to achieve so large a measure of success despite an unusually hard and desolate early life; and not second to that may be rated the fact that he never permitted the hardships of his youth to embitter him or make him cynical.

Born January 3, 1877, in Talbot County, Md., son of Thomas and Ellen Foreman, he knows nothing beyond that fact of his people, for his parents separated in his early childhood, and his mother dying soon thereafter, the little boy was completely orphaned. He was given to a woman who treated him ill, and passed from her to an aunt who reared him, but almost his entire life both as boy and man he has had to shift for himself.

Possibly this accounts for his success, for he learned early when there was anything to be done affecting himself or his interest he alone had to do it, and thus he acquired the habit of moving promptly on his own initiative.

In an educational way he had good advantage, attending Wayland Seminary eight years in all, thence to Shaw University, Raleigh, N. C., where he entered upon the study of law, but later switched to medicine and entered Leonard Medical College of Shaw University, where he won his medical degree in 1904. After completing his course at Shaw he went to the Philadelphia Polyclinic and specialized on surgery.

He worked his way through Wayland's in Washington by jobs about the school, while at Shaw he did some work about the local hotels but spent his vacations at Northern resorts.

He entered upon the practice of his profession at Newport News, Va. He started with a thoroughly trained mind and hand, and a natural aptitude for the work. Patients flowed in upon him from the beginning and today he has all the medical practice he will do, but his preference is for surgery and in that line he has been remarkably successful, rarely losing a case. Almost from the beginning of his

practice, Dr. Foreman felt the need of a hospital and as early as 1908 he began in a small way with the result that in 1917, he was able to establish the Whitaker Memorial Hospital, of which he is the President and Chief Surgeon. In connection with the Hospital he maintains a Nurses' Training School.

Dr. Foreman is recognized as a man of marked professional ability, sound business judgment, and good executive ability. Quiet and dignified in manner, never excited nor nervous, he gets results with apparent ease because the planning is right. He is a member of the Old Dominion, the Tidewater, and the National Medical Associations.

Financially he has been successful but that has been the smaller part of his success.

His wife was Madeline Clark, of Smithfield, Va., before marriage. They have one son, William Tecumsch Foreman.

Religiously Dr. Foreman is a Presbyterian, and while nominally a Republican in politics is practically an independent. Aside from his professional studies his preferred reading is history.

In considering the greatest factor in shaping his life, he gives the credit to a teacher who helped him at night and encouraged him to go to school.

He regards "the right sort of education" as the best method of promoting the interests of the race in state and nation, which is an everlasting truth, for today the whole world is endangered because we have neither right leadership nor right education. To that end we must all work.

Dr. Foreman is in its truest sense a self-made man who at 43 has achieved substantial success and if his days are lengthened, bids fair to be a real leader by example.

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## EUGENE DICKERSON

Dr. Eugene Dickerson, the only colored physician at the prosperous little city of Harrisonburg is a native of the old university town of Charlottesville, where he was born on Aug. 1, 1877.

**EUGENE DICKERSON AND FAMILY**



His parents were Wilson and Fannie Dickerson, his mother having been Miss Reeves, before her marriage.

Young Dickerson laid the foundation of his education in the public schools of Charlottesville. He was, from boyhood, ambitious to satisfy his parents and anxious to make a place for himself. So his record in school and college was a creditable one. After two years in the Charlottesville High School he matriculated at the Virginia Normal and Collegiate Institute at Petersburg and after completing the preparatory course entered upon the college course, which was completed with the A. B. degree in 1896. Having decided to study medicine he entered Leonard Medical College, Raleigh, N. C., where he won his M. D. degree in 1900. In order that he might the better equip himself for his work he did one year's post graduate work at Howard University, where he specialized in gynecology and spent twelve months as interne at the Freedmen's Hospital, Washington. He also holds a medical student's certificate issued by the regents of the University of New York.

He entered upon the practice in Gloucester County, Va. After a short while there he went to Bluefield, W. Va., where he remained for two and a half years and during that time was surgeon to Mercer Hospital. In 1910, he located at Harrisonburg, where he has built up a large general practice. For ten years he has been medical examiner and inspector in the local public schools.

In politics, Dr. Dickerson is a Republican and was a delegate to the Virginia State Republican Convention at Roanoke in 1920. He is an active member of the Baptist Church. Among the secret and benevolent orders, he is identified with the Pythians and Masons. During the war he volunteered in the M. R. C.

He belongs to the Association of Former Internes of Freedmen's Hospital and was a member and delegate to the International Congress on Tuberculosis in 1908 which met at Washington, D. C. He served as Chairman of the local (colored) Liberty Loan Committee. At this time he is a member of the Negro Advisory Committee for Virginia U. S.

Department of Labor and has served as a member of Committee on Vital Statistics of the research department of Hampton Negro Conference. He holds membership in the National Medical Association and is Medical Examiner for the Pythians and the Standard Life Insurance Company; also member Board of Directors of Harrisonburg Community Cooperative Association.

On Jan. 1, 1904, he was married to Miss Leona Anderson, a daughter of James T. and Eva J. Anderson. She was educated at Morgan College, Baltimore, and did post-graduate work at Fisk University. She was an accomplished teacher before her marriage. Dr. and Mrs. Dickerson have three children, Eugene, Jr., Eva Frances, and Austin Curtis Dickerson.

Being a close observer and a careful student of human affairs, Dr. Dickerson suggests that the thing which will contribute most to the progress and development of the race is better organization along civic and economic lines, coupled with unselfish, efficient leadership.

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## ARCHER MITCHELL KENT

Beginning life as an humble farmer boy, Rev. Archer Mitchell Kent now (1920) residing in Richmond, has come to do excellent work in the Baptist denomination. He was born in Halifax County August 6, 1871. His parents died when he was very young. Their names were Jack and Matilda Kent. In the absence of written records he knows nothing of his earlier ancestors on either the father's or the mother's side.

Growing up on the farm in Halifax County, he went to the local school, such as it was, and there secured what education he had till after his conversion and marriage. A peculiar thing about his early life was the fact that even as a small boy he felt as truly called to preach as he has ever felt since. At an early age he learned the painter's trade and made himself proficient in it. Though a successful painter and though satisfactory to his employers, he

**ARCHER MITCHELL KENT AND WIFE**

could never feel happy in his work nor get away from the idea that God wanted him elsewhere. He sought by questionable methods to escape the impression and while he was never fond of whiskey he, at one time, undertook to quench the spirit with strong drink.

In the fall of 1896, he was converted and joined the Banister Hill Baptist Church of Houston, Va. The following year he was licensed to preach and some years later was ordained to the full work of the ministry by the same church.

He had married at an early age, but lost his first wife. On July 13, 1895, he was married to Miss Sallie Ann Ewell, of Clover, Va. She was a daughter of Prof. Spencer and Mrs. Fannie Ewell. Being a teacher, Prof. Ewell had given his daughter the best education his own training would permit.

After deciding, finally, to preach, Mr. Kent realized the need of better preparation, but he was then encumbered with the support of a growing and expensive family. So he settled down to study at home and by the help of his loyal wife he succeeded in getting a practical education which enables him to do better work than would otherwise have been possible. Rev. and Mrs. Kent have five children, four boys and one girl. They are, Samuel L., Archer M., Jr., Israel, Emanuel, and Henriette Kent. The oldest son was in the army during the war and saw service abroad.

Rev. Kent's first pastorate was the Bethlehem Baptist Church, which he served three years. A new church was erected and the membership built up. His next pastorate was the Tabernacle Church at Houston, which he pastored four years and built a new house of worship. After that, he preached at Mt. Pleasant in Campbell County three years and went from there to Salem for three years. He then moved to Richmond, where he has since resided. He preached at Mt. Calvary, in Prince George County, one year and Mt. Pleasant in Powhatan County one year. He is now pastoring, with success, St. John and First Midlothian Baptist Churches. He has been successful as an evangelist and

has had a fruitful ministry to which he devotes the whole of his time.

In politics he is a Republican.

He is now the president of the Ministers' Aid Conference of South Richmond. The object of the conference is to help educate ministers and to protect them in sickness and death.

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## HENRY CRITCHER BROWN

A young business man of Portsmouth after a strenuous youth who now has his feet planted on the rungs of the ladder of success is Henry Critcher Brown. He was born at Colonial Beach, Va., March 23, 1889. He is a son of Mary Washington Critcher and Henry Brown. His father was a farmer, as was his paternal grandfather, John Ross Brown. His maternal grandfather was John Critcher, of Scotch parentage, who was a prominent lawyer in Westmoreland County and who served as Judge of the Circuit Court.

Brown Brown attended the Union Industrial Academy at Port Conway and later the Capital City Commercial College, Des Moines, Iowa.

He not only had to work his way through the schools, but also at the same time assist his parents. The difficulties he encountered on the journey had much to do with the strengthening of his moral fibre and determination, and therefore in the shaping of his life. He was graduated from Commercial College in 1915 as a Bachelor of Accounts, went into business at Des Moines, Iowa, and promptly failed.

Then he accepted a position with St. Paul's Industrial School, at Lawrenceville, Va., as stenographer.

He resigned from that position and became stenographer at the Norfolk Navy Yard. The war coming on he volunteered for army service and was commissioned Second Lieutenant of Infantry.

On the completion of his army service he returned to his first love the life insurance business and is now Agency Director of the Standard Life Insurance Company. Mr.



Brown is a Republican in politics and an Episcopalian in religion.

He is Post Commander of the American Legion Club of Portsmouth, Va.

He is a lover of reading, more especially of works bearing upon the past of the colored people such as "Up From Slavery," "The Leopard Spots," and others, having for him a strong appeal.

He has acquired standing in the community and is well on the road to success.

On Dec. 24, 1918, Mr. Brown was married to Miss Marion Ursula Bulkley, a daughter of Louis and Sarah Bulkley. They have one child, a little daughter whose name is Ursula Otis Bulkley Brown.

Mr. Brown pins his faith for a better future for his people to "trained business men and women."

There is much force in this as to an outsider it would seem that colored men and women are crowding into professions to the exclusion of business life.

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## JOHN EDWARD J. MOORE

Prof. John Edward Jeffress Moore, principal of the school at Buena Vista, is an active, vigorous man who has made his mark not only as a teacher, but in the business world as well.

He is a native of the capital city of the Old Dominion, having been born at Richmond on April 9, 1876. His parents were Abram and Madaline (Lawson) Moore. He says, "My father's parents were Abram and Amy. Both were very young slaves, owned by a Dennis family of Charlotte County, Va. My mother's father and mother were Winston and Jennie Lawson, also of Charlotte County."

On Dec. 26, 1902, Prof. Moore was married to Miss Ada Scott, a daughter of John and Mary Scott of Buena Vista, Va. They have an interesting family of four children. Their names are, Walter, Myrtle, John and Ada Moore.

As a boy young Moore laid the foundation of his educa-

**JOHN EDWARD JEFFRESS MOORE**



tion in Richmond, passing from the grades into and through the high and normal courses, graduating in 1894. He completed a correspondence course in letters and science. He also studied two and a half years at Rochester. Let no one imagine, however, that he was able to equip himself for his work in life without a struggle. He has known the necessity of work almost from childhood. That he did not permit this condition of affairs to discourage him is itself a measure of the man. Early in life the truths taught him by his mother and at Sunday School influenced him and have been the most potent factor in his life.

He was a hard student and graduated at Richmond with honors, having been chosen valedictorian of his class, and winning warm words of commendation from his principal. He usually spent his vacations in hotel work at the North and in this way earned money for each succeeding term.

He began his work as a teacher in King William County, Va., in 1896, and taught two terms. Here he won for himself the hearty commendation of the County Superintendent. As a teacher in public and private schools he has taught nearly every subject of the present day academy. For twelve years he has been principal of the Buena Vista graded school. His work here has been recognized as he is President of the Buena Vista City, Lexington and Rockbridge County Teachers' Associations.

Prof. Moore is an active and influential member of the Baptist church and Superintendent of his local Sunday School. Among the secret orders he is identified with the Odd Fellows, Court of Calanthe and Pythians. In both the Odd Fellows and the Pythians he has been prominent officially. His early training and later experience have combined to make Prof. Moore a capable business man also. He represents the J. E. McBrady Co. of Chicago during his vacations and is Secretary and Manager of the Buena Vista Joint Stock Co., which runs a general store.

His reading is of that solid sort represented by the Bible and Shakespeare. He believes the best interests of the

race are to be promoted through a spirit of co-operation between the best elements of both races.

He has wrought well and has left his impress for good on the hearts of many people.

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## THOMAS H. WHITE

Rev. Thomas H. White, D. D., pastor of the First Baptist Church of Clifton Forge, is a versatile man, being an eloquent preacher, a successful pastor, a facile writer, a teacher and a scientific gardener.

Dr. White is a native of Walkerton, in the historic old county of King and Queen, where he was born on Oct. 8, 1869. His father, Rev. General White, was an active man. During the war he built a raft on the Rappahannock and by that means joined the Federal Army and went to Texas. Later he was converted and became a Baptist preacher. He was ordained by Rev. Richard Hugh Bagby. General White was drowned in 1882. He was the son of William and Bettie White. While his son was in the Federal Army William White helped to dig Confederate breastworks. The mother of our subject was, before her marriage, Miss Mary Ann Green. She was a daughter of Umphrey and Lucinda Green, who were house servants in the home of the late R. M. T. Hunter, who was in the Confederate Cabinet. Dr. White was married on June 20, 1900, to Miss Martha A. Harper, a daughter of Peter and Martha A. Harper of Richmond. They have three children, Jennellett, Ruth, and Naomi Altha White.

The family moved to Richmond before Thomas H. White was three months of age and there the boy laid the foundation of his education and grew to manhood. In his early teens he lost his father and from that time forward helped in the support of his widowed mother. When about seventeen years of age he was converted and almost immediately felt called to preach. When ready for college he went to Virginia Theological Seminary and College at Lynchburg

and was graduated with the B. D. degree in 1897. Ten years later his alma mater conferred on him the D. D. degree. He is now a trustee of the same institution. He is also a trustee of the National Training School for Girls at Washington.

He was licensed in 1894 and four years later was ordained to the full work of the ministry by the First Baptist Church of Richmond. After his graduation he served for one year as assistant pastor of the old First Baptist Church of Richmond. From 1898 to 1900 he was Professor of Mathematics and Church Polity at his alma mater, serving the Mt. Carmel Church as pastor at the same time. The next two years were spent at Harrisonburg as pastor of the First Baptist Church there. In 1902 he accepted the call of the Clifton Forge Church, which he has served continuously since. The church at this place has been remodeled and has had splendid growth under his leadership.

Not only is Dr. White a successful pastor, he is also prominent in the organized work of the denomination. From 1911 to 1918 he was Corresponding Secretary of the Virginia Baptist Convention. He is the vice-president of the National Baptist Convention and is the Virginia representative on the executive board of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ. He is recognized as one of the best informed men on the history of his church in the State.

In politics Dr. White is a Republican. He is prominent and active in the work of the secret orders, being Grand Prelate of the Pythians of Virginia and a thirty-second degree Mason. He is a skilful gardener and gets out of his gardening, recreation, pleasure and profit. This knowledge was turned to particularly good advantage during the war. No sketch of him would be complete without some record of the splendid work which he did during the war as Chairman of the Food Conservation Committee.

Dr. White is a success, yea, more than that, he is an example and an illustration of what a boy can do who is willing to fear God and work.



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*Dea H. White*

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He is of the opinion that the Negro needs only a man's chance and a man's treatment, or as the late Mr. Roosevelt was accustomed to put it, "a square deal."

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## ALEXANDER HUDGINS

The Rev. Alexander Huggins, a faithful preacher of the Gospel, now (1920) residing at Newport News, was born in Matthews County during the stormy days of the War between the States, on Jan. 15, 1862. His mother, Maria Jane Hudgins was a daughter of Peter and Cynthia Brooks. She died when her son was only two years old. The boy's father, Alexander Hudgins, also passed away while the boy was still a child. So it came to pass that he was completely orphaned and compelled to make his own way in the world.

Growing up in Matthews County, he did what the average Negro boy did in the country. He worked on the farm and at oystering and went to school during the short term schools which prevailed at that time. Just as he was merging into manhood at the age of eighteen, he gave his heart to God and has since that time been active in the work of the church. It was some years after his conversion that he was called to preach and some years later still before he entered the ministry. Going from Matthews County, he worked at Sewell's Point and later, before the days of automobiles, drove for a Norfolk physician. After that he was on the wharf with the N. & W. R. R. and the Bay Line. In the meantime he had attended night school in Norfolk in order that he might better prepare himself for his work. During these years he was active in the work of First Calvary Church and sang first tenor in the choir.

He was licensed to preach by Macedonia Baptist Church, then located where Second Calvary now stands, and which he joined. He was ordained by the Mt. Zion Baptist Church.

His first pastorate was the First Baptist Church at Fisher's Hill, which he served for two years and bought a lot for a new church. He preached at Green Sea six months



**ALEXANDER HUDGINS**

and Little Creek two years. He has served the church at Denbigh, Warwick County, Va., seven years and remodeled the house of worship, and together with that he is now in his third year at Cary Chapel in York County, and is preparing to erect a new house of worship there, dividing his time between the two churches. Mr. Hudgins has done considerable evangelistic work in Virginia and adjoining States.

He is a member of the Education Board of the Norfolk Union Association and among the benevolent orders, belongs to the National Ideals. In politics he is a Republican.

On April 25, 1887, Mr. Hudgins was married to Miss Martha Shelley of Matthews County.

His own experience and observation lead him to the conclusion that the greatest single need of the race today is Christian education. His property interests are in Matthews County.

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## JOHN ANDREW JACKSON

Dr. John Andrew Jackson, of Charlottesville, Va., maintains a dental office in his home in that city and also keeps a dental office in Lynchburg, where he spends three days each week.

An active young man, he is already firmly established and doing well in his profession. He was born in New York City, June 22, 1888. His parents were Andrew W. and Catherine B. Jackson. His father is a farmer in Virginia and is the son of Samuel and Mary Jackson.

Young Jackson's youth was spent mostly in Petersburg, Va., where he attended the public schools and the Peabody High School. In his youthful period he worked in a print shop and later as an apprentice for an electrician.

Having decided upon the dental profession as his choice of a career, he entered Howard University at Washington, D. C., for the dental course and was graduated in 1913 with the degree of D. D. S. The greater part of the money required for his University course was earned during his vaca-

**JOHN ANDREW JACKSON**

tions by his work in Huyler's Confectionery Store at Asbury Park, N. J.

Immediately after his graduation he located in Charlottesville for the practice of his profession and made a success from the beginning.

Dec. 23, 1915, he married Otelia Love of Waynesville, N. C., who was educated in Johnson City, Tenn., and was a teacher at the time of her marriage. They have three children, John A., Jr., Ellard N., and Catherine Love Jackson.

Dr. Jackson is a type of the good citizen. He has made a good home, is raising up a superior family, earning a good income, and in all ways conforming to those things which spell good citizenship.

Not active in politics, he adheres to the Republican party. He is a member of the Baptist Church and the Masonic order. Member Board of Directors Commercial Bank and Trust Co., Richmond, Va. He holds membership in the Old Dominion Dental Association, National Medical Association and Interstate Dental Association. Just past thirty-two years of age, he is one of the fortunate members of his race who is thoroughly established in his profession at an age when so many are just beginning their life work, which proves that in the journey of life, he has allowed no opportunity to escape and has wasted no time. He gives credit to his mother and father as the most powerful factors in shaping his life and is a strong believer in education as the most potent factor in the promotion of his race's interest.

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## COLLIN PATRICK MADISON

Rev. Collin Patrick Madison, D. D., now (1920) pastor of the Second Calvary Baptist Church of Norfolk ought by right of accomplishment to have the title of "Church Builder," as our readers will agree after reading of his career.

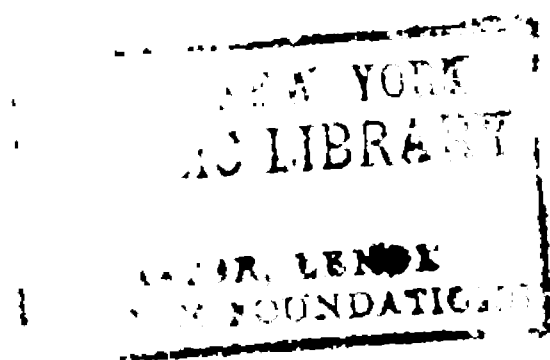
Not yet forty years old he has done large things, not in

isolated cases, but everywhere he has been called. He was born in Dinwiddie County, Va., June 24, 1881. He comes from a family of preachers, and was born on St. John's Day, so that it looks like heredity in his case. His parents were Rev. Henry and Creecy J. Madison. Henry Madison was a Baptist preacher for thirty-five years. His maternal grandmother was Alice Jolly, his paternal grandparents were James and Milly Madison. James Madison was also a minister in slavery days. Up to the age of eighteen, young Madison worked on a farm, getting some educational training in the public schools of Dinwiddie County. Converted at the age of eighteen, he entered Virginia Theological Seminary and College, Lynchburg, from which he was graduated in 1904. In the meantime he had been licensed to preach by Big Bethel Church in 1901, and in 1905 was ordained to the full work of the ministry by the same church. His ministry has been one of active work from the beginning. He has served little Gilfield Church at Ivor, Va., where he succeeded his father and paid the church out of debt. Then followed Poplar Lawn at Wellsville, where again he succeeded his father. In this charge he remodeled the church. Thence to Mt. Sinai, thence to New Hope at Sussex C. H., from which place he was called to his present pastorate in April, 1915.

It was not a brilliant outlook. The church had 125 members, a Sunday School of 30; semi-monthly preaching, collection of thirty to forty dollars per month and a small frame church building. On the other side a strong, energetic, eloquent preacher, a good organizer, and of sound judgment.

The strong man, backed by the little congregation has won out. In five years the 125 members have increased to 1450, the little Sunday School of 30 has increased to 350, the monthly offerings of thirty to forty dollars have increased to four hundred dollars weekly, the little frame church has been replaced by a splendid church at a cost of seventy-two thousand dollars on which forty-seven thousand dollars have been paid in two years. The church has

**COLLIN PATRICK MADISON**



become a power in Norfolk, and though not the largest in the city, no other church has a larger congregation.

Another illustration; five years ago this church gave two dollars and fifty cents to missions and education, it is now giving two thousand two hundred dollars a year.

One can imagine the tremendous energy Dr. Madison must have put into the work, notwithstanding which he found time for much activity in all war campaigns and was exceedingly hard worked.

Dr. Madison found time in his earlier career to put in two years as a public school teacher and other than that he has been strictly a preacher of the Gospel.

In five pastorates he has paid off old debts, remodeled two churches and built another. So that the title of Church Builder fairly fits.

For three years he served as Recording Secretary of the National Baptist Convention. He is Chairman of the State Mission Board of the Virginia Baptist State Convention, and a Trustee of the Virginia Theological Seminary and College, which is his alma mater, and from which he has the degree of B. D.

He is a Republican in politics and an Odd Fellow in the fraternal world. He has traveled extensively in our own country.

In his student days he was partial to athletics, having been captain of the football team and a member of the baseball team.

Naturally such a man would be a reader and he has marked partiality for history and biography, and keeps up with the current literature of the day.

Dr. Madison considers that the home influence, which was Christian, was the most potent factor in shaping his life.

"Better schooling" is his shiboleth for the race.

His own experience of life has convinced him of the awful cost of Godless ignorance and therefore he sees the amendment of that condition as the first essential to progress of the right sort.



Mr. Madison has been twice married. June 14, 1905, he married Mary E. Chambliss of Dinwiddie County. She passed to her reward on June 16, 1908, leaving him two children, Thos. H. and Collin Joe Madison.

On May 2, 1911, he was married to Maggie S. McClenney of Southampton County, who was a graduate of Courtland Normal School. They have three children, Wm. Robert, Edna May, and Daisy B. Madison.

Dr. Madison is a rather unusual combination in that he is not only an eloquent pulpit orator but is also a pastor of rare constructive ability and these two qualities are not usually found in the same man.

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## EDISON HENSHAW GAINES

One of the unmistakable signs of progress is to be found in the increasing number of intelligent, enterprising young men of the race, who are equipping themselves for some definite work in life and devoting their best energies to the establishment and building of permanent business enterprises. One of the young men who has not found it necessary to go away from his home town in order to succeed is Mr. Edison Henshaw Gaines of Orange. He was born at Orange on Jan. 14, 1897, and is one of the youngest men whose record appears in this work. His father was the late George Allen Gaines of Orange, who was the son of Andrew Gaines. Mr. Gaines' mother was, before her marriage, Miss Rosa J. Henshaw, a daughter of Maria Henshaw. She is still living (1921) and resides at Washington.

As young Gaines grew up he worked about his father's establishment and laid the foundation of his education in the local public schools. After completing that course, he went to Manassas Normal and Industrial School for five years and was graduated from that institution in 1916. He took an active part in school athletics and was especially fond of baseball and football. The year following his graduation he engaged in business for himself at Orange where he now conducts the Orange Electric Shoe Repairing

**EDISON HENSHAW GAINES AND WIFE**

Co. He has prospered in his work and is the most successful business man of the race in the county.

On March 30, 1918, he was married to Miss Amanda G. Woods, a daughter of Douglas and Matilda Woods. They have two children, Edison A. and George L. Gaines.

Mr. Gaines entered school with the idea of studying medicine later, but after learning a trade became attached to the business and has since pursued that with the exception of a short period during the war when he was in training for the service, first at Hampton and later at Camp Jackson, Columbia, S. C.

Mr. Gaines is a Republican in politics and among the secret orders is identified with the Odd Fellows. He believes the best interests of both races are to be promoted by a spirit of hearty co-operation between the better elements of both races.

With a successful and growing business Mr. Gaines can look forward to the future with hope and confidence.

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## MOTEA MELVIN LEWIS

Dr. Motea Melvin Lewis, who is already well established in the practice of medicine at Richmond, is one of the youngest men of his profession in the city. Although he has been practicing for four years, he is still (1920) on the sunny side of thirty. Dr. Lewis is a native of Richmond, where he was born Sept. 23, 1892. His parents were Jno. O. and Kate (Brown) Lewis.

As a boy young Lewis attended the Richmond public and high schools, after which he went to Kittrell College for his literary and preparatory work. He did one year of college work at Shaw University and then went to the University of West Tenn. for his medical course, which he completed with the M. D. degree in 1916. Dr. Lewis is one of those rare men, one finds occasionally, who from early boyhood have had very definite ideas of their work in life. He says, "My greatest desire has always been to help relieve suffering humanity. I began reading medicine when

MOTEA MELVIN LEWIS

but thirteen years of age, established a laboratory and compounded medicines while in Baker School and Armstrong High School. I was physical culture instructor and furnished medical aid." He says he was inspired to be a doctor by reading while in school in his reader, "And the third shall hereafter be a doctor, and administer pills and portions and stout gravely through life."

On completion of his medical course Dr. Lewis returned to Richmond and began the practice in 1916. For one of his years he has succeeded well.

He is a man of intelligence and broad sympathies, which come only with travel and reading. While, of course, his professional reading has the right of way, he has built up a good general library. Through the current papers and magazines he keeps abreast of the times. Dr. Lewis also finds the chemistry of medicine an interesting and fascinating phase of his work and spends considerable time in his laboratory, where he has worked out a number of formulae of value.

He is a member of the Baptist Church and belongs to the Shepherds and St. John Watchmen. He is also identified with the Richmond Medical Society, Old Dominion Society, and the National Medical Asso.

He believes that the progress of the race is to be promoted by education and by the accumulation of money, which shall be used to establish Negro enterprises where other members of the race may be further trained and developed.

During the war he was commissioned First Lieutenant in the M. R. C.

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## NORMAN LASSITER

One of the most intelligent and successful dentists of Virginia resides at Newport News. We refer to Dr. Norman Lassiter, who has added to his general education much practical knowledge gathered by extensive travel in this country and abroad.

**NORMAN LASSITER**

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Dr. Lassiter is a native of the Old North State and enjoys the distinction of having been born at the historic old town of Winton on the Chowan River. The date of his birth was Sept. 7, 1879. His parents were John and Martha (Turner) Lassiter. John Lassiter was the son of John Lassiter, Sr., and his wife Martha Lassiter. On the maternal side, Dr. Lassiter's grandparents were William and Nancy Turner.

On both sides, his ancestors were free born and were the owners of considerable real estate even before Emancipation.

When young Lassiter was seven years of age, he went to Philadelphia to live with his sister and in this way had the superior advantages of the excellent public schools of that city. He also did his preparatory work there and for his literary or college work went to Lincoln University.

When ready for his professional course, he matriculated at the Pennsylvania Dental College, where he won the D. D. S. degree in 1906. Later he did special work at Harvard Dental School, Boston.

Fortunately for the young man from the South, he made connection with an excellent family at Germantown, which proved mutually satisfactory. He remained with that family till his graduation and was greatly helped by the happy influences of that home. He also found helpful his contact with others who had won success or who, like himself, were struggling in the face of difficulties.

On completion of his course, he began practice in Philadelphia and after a short while located in Wilmington, Del., where he practiced one year. In 1909 he came to Virginia and located at Newport News. Here he has built a practice which has made for him a reputation as well as money.

His standing as a dentist may be inferred from the fact that he is Oral Surgeon and Dentist at Hampton Institute and holds a similar position with the School for the Deaf, Dumb and Blind.

His practice is by no means confined to his own race, the



character of his work has attracted to him an extensive white practice as well, and at this time (1920) it is about equally divided between the races. In 1913 Dr. Lassiter went abroad and spent nearly a year in Europe. He was a delegate to the International Hygiene Congress at Paris and also attended the International Dental Congress at London in 1913.

In this way, he came in contact with many of the leading lights of the profession on both sides of the Atlantic. He was in Berlin when the World War broke out and had the thrilling experience of Americans who were abroad at that time.

On Jan. 10, 1910, Dr. Lassiter was happily married to Miss Mattie A. Crews, a daughter of Patrick and Agnes Crews.

In politics he is a Republican and is a member of the Presbyterian Church. He belongs to the Masons and is Treasurer of the War Camp Community Club.

Dr. Lassiter is prominent in the professional organizations. He organized and was for two years President of the Old Dominion Dental Association. He is also a member of the Inter State Dental Association, and is Preseident of the Inter-State Dental Supply Co., honorary member Robt. T. Freeman Dental Association, Washington, D. C., He is a Trustee of the successful school conducted by Dr. C. S. Brown at his native town of Winton, N. C.; also member of the National Dental and Medical Association; active member of the International Dental Congress, England; active member Oral Hygiene Congress, Paris, France.

In addition to his beautiful home Dr. Lassiter owns attractive real estate in the business section of Newport News, and is regarded as one of the substantial men of affairs in that prosperous city.

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# ANDREW JACKSON OLIVER

In the complex civilization of the present day, the lawyer occupies a unique position. Having to deal, as he must, with every class and condition of men, he must know a great deal more than legal definitions and court procedure, if he would succeed.

He must, first of all, take care of his client. Opposing counsel watches every move. He may have to deal with experts in municipal affairs, in medicine, in business life or any of a dozen other lines, and he must handle them intelligently. All this requires a carefully trained mind, accurate and rapid thinking in the presence of the Court and of others, and the ability to present the facts of a case in such a way as to create the right impression.

Among the accomplished and successful lawyers in Virginia must be mentioned Andrew Jackson Oliver of Roanoke City. A visit to his office discloses a large and well selected library, the contents of which he has mastered in a marked degree, as is shown by his depth of knowledge, range of vision and clarity of statement, upon almost every subject and particularly upon the science of law. The love of which, he says, "was born with his birth and grew with his growth."

Mr. Oliver is a native of the old college town of Blacksburg, where he was born on Sept. 15, 1865. His father, Andrew Oliver, was son of Thomas Oliver. His mother, before her marriage, was Miss Fannie Vaughn, a daughter of Abraham and Rachel Vaughn, the latter lived to the ripe old age of a hundred fifteen years. From childhood Mr. Oliver showed signs of intellectual and oratorical powers which have since brought him into prominence.

He laid the foundation of his education at the Schafer Institute. Later moving to Ohio, he pursued his studies at Ironton, Ohio, where he finished the high school course in 1881.

He had to make his own way in school. He worked on the steam-boats and at hotels and after learning the trade

**ANDREW JACKSON OLIVER**

worked at cabinet making. After completing his high school course, he went to Hinton, W. Va., and read law in the offices of Fowler and Miller for a period of four years. After that he did special work at the People's University, Cincinnati, leading to the LL. B. degree in 1886. After his graduation he located at Charleston, W. Va. He was the first Negro lawyer to practice in the State and was subjected to a rigid examination. He was admitted on May 8, 1886. He opened an office also at Hinton, auxiliary to his former preceptors and was soon in the enjoyment of a state-wide practice.

In 1889 he visited the prosperous little city of Roanoke and was so pleased with the outlook that he moved there and was admitted to the Virginia Bar in 1890. For thirty years he has practiced in that part of the Old Dominion and is one of the most successful lawyers of the race in the South. He is frequently associated with white attorneys in important cases and has many white clients. The local papers refer in the highest terms "of his attainments as a lawyer, of his integrity as a man and of his deportment as a citizen." He does a general practice in the State and Federal Courts.

His wide reading and extensive acquaintance among the leaders of both races as well as his interest in all public matters, and his readiness as a speaker have for years made him a popular orator on public occasions. His voice has been heard in behalf of education, religion and good government, for which he has plead with the same earnestness and enthusiasm with which he has spoken for his clients. He was a member of the Legal Advisory Board of Virginia in the Selective Draft during the World War. He is a recognized leader of his people in Virginia.

A leading white man of Roanoke, speaking of Mr. Oliver, said, "He is the connecting link, or the go-between on all questions touching the relations of the two races in Roanoke, Virginia."

He is a member of the M. E. Church, in which he has been a local preacher for fifteen years, he was a delegate to the

1912 General Conference, he belongs to the Masons, the Pythians and the Odd Fellows.

His favorite reading consists of history and biography. He has kept in close touch with the best literature of his race and has made a rare collection of orations, essays and other selections, which it may be hoped he will put in permanent form.

In February, 1901, he was married to Miss Susie T. Burnett of Lynchburg. Mrs. Oliver was educated at Hampton Institute and is an accomplished teacher.

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## WILLIAM HARRIS

Rev. William Harris, a prominent Baptist preacher of Virginia, who at this time (1921) is a missionary working under the joint co-operative plan fostered by the Virginia Baptists and Southern Baptist Convention (White) is a native of Georgia.

He was born in Pike County, Ga., July 4, 1875. His father, Isaac Harris, was a farmer and the son of Mingo Harris. His mother, Mary (Pope) Harris, was a daughter of Phil and Nettie Pope.

As a boy, young Harris attended the Georgia public schools and spent the rest of his time on the farm. When about fourteen years of age, he left Georgia for Alabama, where he remained for three years. At about that time he was happily converted and, feeling called to the ministry, entered Knox College in order that he might prepare himself for the serious work of life, and remained at that institution for eleven years.

He was under the necessity of making his own way in school, which he did by working in the coal mines during his vacation. He was licensed to preach by the Coal Creek Baptist Church in 1897 and the following year was ordained to the full work of the ministry by the same body. After he had been in the pastorate for some years, he entered the Virginia Union University at Richmond for his theological course, which he completed in 1910, with the B. D. de-

**WILLIAM HARRIS**

gree, later the D. D. degree was conferred on him by Friendship College at Rockhill, S. C.

His first pastorate was the Corinthian Baptist Church, which he served for two years and which he paid out of debt. He preached at Concord, Tenn., for two years and went from there to the First Baptist Church at Newcomb. While there he was also principal of High School. Was pastor of the Cedar Street Baptist Church of Richmond for two years. He served the First Baptist Church at Concord, N. C., for three years and filled the pulpit of Mt. Calvary for three years. He has done quite a lot of evangelistic work, at which he has been unusually successful.

While in Tennessee, he was Moderator of the Little Zion Sunday School Convention for two years.

Since 1917, he has been engaged in missionary work under the auspices of the Virginia General Association in co-operation with the Southern Baptist Convention. His headquarters are in Petersburg and his territory extends from Petersburg to Alexandria. His work consists largely of conducting Bible Institutes and strengthening the work in weak places. During the winter months he confines himself to the city churches, but during the summer goes into the rural districts.

While preaching at Concord, N. C., he also taught in the public schools of Cabarrus County.

Looking back over his life, Dr. Harris is of the opinion that the influence of his mother was the most important factor for good in his early career.

He has had opportunity to study conditions among his people at close range, and believes the most urgent need is the right sort of education.

In 1912 Dr. Harris married Miss Marie A. Montgomery. They have two children, Paul and Helena Harris.

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## SAMUEL ISAAC MOONE

In considering the life stories of prominent members of the Negro race who are making good in their various pursuits one is necessarily impressed with their hard struggle to secure an education, the mature age at which they entered upon their chosen pursuits, and the quick success thereafter made.

There is a close connection between these things. Only men of strong will power can endure through the early hardships, and when they begin their real life work they have passed the flighty period of youth and their minds are mature so that there is but little lost motion in their efforts.

Samuel Isaac Moone, M. D., of Norfolk, Va., illustrates forcibly the facts above mentioned.

He was born in Spartanburg County, S. C., Jan. 6, 1864. His parents were Allen and Mary Moone. His grandparents were Washington and Judy Moone and Prince and Harriet Houston.

His father, Allen Moone, was a farmer who evidently had ambitions for his son for he bought him books, encouraged him to study, and greatly influenced his life. He remained on the farm until grown, getting meanwhile the meager advantages offered by the local public schools of that day which in the light of today appear as public caricatures of schools.

Leaving home he went to Chattanooga, Tenn., where he spent six years at manual labor and then entered Biddle University at Charlotte, N. C., where he remained eight years, winning his A. B. degree in 1898. By that time he had decided to become a physician and entered Leonard Medical College of Shaw University, Raleigh, N. C., where after another five years he won his M. D. degree in 1904.

During this fourteen years' struggle he paid his own way by his labor, mostly in iron works at Pittsburgh. In 1905 being then forty years of age he began the practice



of medicine in Accomac County on the Eastern shore of Virginia.

After three years he moved to Norfolk, Va. He had acquired experience and confidence.

In the twelve years since settling at Norfolk he has built up an excellent practice and acquired substantial property.

Dr. Moone has been twice married. His first wife, to whom he was married in Sept., 1905, was Miss Susan Fox of Charlotte, N. C., who was educated at Scotia Seminary and was an accomplished teacher. She passed to her reward on Dec. 8, 1907. Later he married Miss Jessie E. Stoney of Aiken, S. C., June 25, 1913, who was educated at Claflin University and who, before her marriage, was a teacher in the same school.

His travels have been such as naturally come about in his business journeys and have covered several of the east central states.

The Bible and historical books cover his preferred reading, and both he finds most helpful.

He is a Presbyterian in his church relations and an elder in his church. A Republican in politics, but takes no active part in political life. His fraternal society activities are confined to the Masonic order.

In the future progress of the race, Dr. Moone is of the opinion that the securing of good homes and acquiring knowledge of sanitation will be among the most important factors in pushing it forward.

Dr. Moone is a successful physician and a good citizen, from which one may conclude that the fourteen years' struggle to qualify himself was a good investment of time and labor, however heart-breaking it may sometimes have been when the work was hard and the goal so distant.

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**SAMUEL ISAAC MOONE**

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# LISTON LEANDER DAVIS

The Rev. Liston Leander Davis of Bowling Green, Va., has a remarkable record. After nearly 25 years spent in the school room, during which he did splendid work, he entered the ministry when past fifty years of age and immediately forged to the front as a successful, influential and most useful minister.

Rev. Mr. Davis was born at Lloyds, Essex County, Va., on September 29, 1861. His father was a white man. His mother, Mary A. Davis, was the daughter of a blacksmith whose wife was half Indian and half English, and this is the full extent of his knowledge concerning his people.

His youth was not easy. He had to work hard to gain every step forward, but it is this sort of experience which makes real men. He got a little start from the public schools of Essex County, then a step further in the schools of Wethersfield, Conn., and finally a course in the Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute, from which he was graduated in 1888.

His first work after leaving Hampton in 1888 was to take charge of the public graded school at Champlain, Va. He proved a heaven-born teacher. In his fifteen years at Champlain he raised his school to the status of an industrial high school.

In 1903 he was elected Principal of the Bowling Green Industrial Academy, which position he held for eleven years. In 1914 the school was turned over to the county as Caroline Training School and he continued to work with the new school.

Meantime, in 1912, he had been ordained to the Baptist ministry by the First Mt. Zion Church by authority of his home church, and took charge (1913) of the Mt. Dew Baptist Church at Moss Neck, where an addition to the church edifice has been built. In 1914 he was called to the pastorate of the Shiloh Baptist Church at Port Royal, Va., which he still serves (1920.) The house of worship, which was destroyed by lightning, has been replaced and the

**LISTON LEANDER DAVIS**

church is free of debt. In 1919 he was called to the charge of St. Stephen's Baptist Church, Central Point, Va., where a splendid church has been completed and furnished. All this pastoral work he has done without discontinuing his work in the Training School, in addition to which he has charge of the Smith-Hughes Agricultural work, in Caroline County, and is actively engaged in Community Uplift Work. Is Statistical Secretary of the Mattaponi Baptist Association; Secretary Caroline County Sunday School Union; and Secretary Educational Association of Caroline County. All of which recalls the great apostle's statement: "In labors abundant."

In 1890 Mr. Davis was married to Miss Mattie Barracks Griffin, daughter of Henry and Sinah Griffin. They have one son, Geo. W. Davis.

Rev. Mr. Davis regards his Christian faith and his love of learning as the controlling factors in the shaping of his life. Sacred and profane history with political economy constitute his preferred reading. He has traveled the Middle Atlantic and our Eastern States as far east as Canada. He is an inactive Republican in politics and a member of the Masonic Fraternity, in which he ranks as a Past Master. By thrift he has accumulated a substantial property, which enables him to be all the more generous in giving unpaid service.

He thinks the race should be taught economy in the home as to food and dress, taught to save and make safe investments and to have bank accounts.

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## ALLEN MARCELLUS BOWLES

Those callings or professions which require of those who follow them exact as well as extensive knowledge, the acquirement of which means years of study, do not attract the boy or youth who lacks patience, pluck, and perseverance. All the more is this the case where the boy must rely on his own resources for an education. Yet these self-made men, starting out in poverty sometimes, and in ob-

scurity, frequently prove a credit to their chosen profession, and make a place for themselves in the business and social life of their communities.

Such a man is Dr. Allen Marcellus Bowles, a druggist of Richmond. He was born and reared in Richmond. The date of his birth was May 3, 1890. His parents, Edmund and Louisa Bowles. His maternal grandfather was Benjamin Harris.

Dr. Bowles was married on Oct. 14, 1907, to Miss Helen F. Carter of Warrenton, N. C. She is a daughter of Hen. Hawkins Carter, who formerly represented his county in the legislature. Dr. and Mrs. Bowles have two children, Eloise P. and Garnett D. Bowles. These are being given the best educational advantages.

As a boy young Bowles attended the public schools of Richmond, after which he did his academic and preparatory work at Va. Union University. He passed from there to the Leonard School of Pharmacy, from which he was graduated with the Ph. G. degree in 1907.

Dr. Bowles found it necessary to make his own way in school, which he did by means of hotel work. During his summer vacations he went North to work. He gives his mother, who is still living (1920), the credit for being the chief inspiration of his boyhood days.

After completing his course in 1907, he returned to Richmond and was employed as a pharmacist for three years. At the end of that time he and Dr. Shackelford formed a partnership and launched a drug business under the firm name of Bowles and Shackelford. They have one store on Church Hill and another on N. First Street. The business is well established and enjoys a good patronage.

In politics Dr. Bowles is a Republican and takes some part in the affairs of his party as ever intelligent citizen should. He is a member of the Baptist Church. Among the secret orders, he belongs to the Elks and the Odd Fellows. He is a member of the Independent Club and is identified with the Richmond, Old Dominion and National Medical Organizations. He was for two years Secy. of the Phar-

maceutical Section of the National Association and has been a regular attendant at the National Conventions. Dr. Bowles believes that the future progress of the race depends on co-operation.

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## ELISHA M. MITCHELL

The Rev. Elisha Marzello Mitchell, now (1920) pastor of the Augusta Street Station, Staunton, Va., of the Methodist Episcopal Church, is a rare combination of business ability, musical talent, religious zeal and common sense.

Dr. Mitchell was born in Baltimore, Md., April 3, 1871, son of John W. and Amanda Blake Mitchell. John W. Mitchell was for many years leader of the choir at the Centennial M. E. Church, so that he comes honestly by his musical ability. His paternal grandfather, for whom he was named, was Elisha Mitchell, a local preacher in the M. E. Church.

Young Mitchell went through the Baltimore public schools, and received his higher training under the tutelage of the faculty of Peabody Institute at Baltimore, and this includes theology.

As a boy he worked about Baltimore and steadily developed his musical talent to such a degree that he is much in demand as the leader of the music at great denominational meetings. Arriving at manhood, Mr. Mitchell learned the trade of painting and interior decorating, and gradually worked his way up to where he was a successful builder and contractor. All along the way, however, he found himself fighting the "Still, Small Voice, which insisted that his real vocation was the Gospel ministry.

Finally his business was swept away and then he yielded. He had been soundly converted in 1892, was licensed to preach in 1895, and ordained at Alexandria, Va., by Bishop Berry in 1908.

He has traveled widely and has done much evangelistic work, in which he has been most successful. This has been done in addition to his regular pastoral work.



**ELISHA MARZELLO MITCHELL**

His first pastorate was Lancaster Circuit, Va., where he remained two years and built a church at Lilian's. From Lancaster, he was sent to Inwood Circuit, W. Va., where he spent three years. While there he rebuilt the church at Leetown, and paid the other churches of the circuit out of debt. His next appointment was to Leigh Street Station, Richmond, Va., where he remained four years. During his incumbency there he bought for the use of his congregation what had been the Emanuel Baptist Church (white) and a parsonage.

This started a fight as to segregation of the races, which with other similar cases finally found its way to the Supreme Court of the U. S., where a decision was rendered which in effect made all segregation acts inoperative. In 1917, he was sent to the Augusta Street Station, Staunton, Va., where he has now been for four years. He found a church of 254 members and was confronted with a great exodus of colored people to Northern States. He buckled on his armor and tackled the difficulties. He has increased his membership to 400, remodeled the church, cancelled the church debt of \$9,000.00, and toned up every department of the work.

Dr. Mitchell has won the respect of the entire community. He is a vigorous, independent man given to plain speech. There is nothing devious about his ideas or methods. When a thing needs to be done, he goes at the task directly and gets results. He reveres the memory of his mother, whose influence was most potent in influencing his life. His favorite reading is history.

Rev. Mr. Mitchell was married Dec. 16, 1901, to Miss Florence Nichols of Cambridge, Mass., who was educated at Baltimore. Of this marriage there are five children, Charles E., John W., Waddell O., Elisha M., Jr., and Mary G. Mitchell.

He stands for the spirit of co-operation between the races, as peace cannot be made by law. As he sees it the best results can only come from right thinking and correct conduct of the leaders of both races. Staunton is proud of

Dr. Mitchell, for he has reflected credit on the town by his great work.

When the Centenary was planned for Columbus, O., he was made field agent and did effective work in a number of states. At the celebration he was leader of the Washington Conference Quartet, director of the Negro Community Sing, daily at 1:30 P. M. took the part of John Stuart in the great pageant of July 4th. This John Stuart was a Negro who was the first missionary to the Wyandotte Indians. Finally before a great audience of 50,000, he sang the "Man of Galilee" in such a way as to thrill the great audience to its heart.

But he does not have to go away from home to get a hearing. When the United Churches of the Colored People of Staunton were holding a great tabernacle meeting, with a chorus of several hundred trained voices, he led the music so inspiringly that the people, white and black, flocked by thousands to the meeting and the most generous praise was accorded by the press of the city.

Dr. Mitchell has done, and is doing good work and doing it well. He is fully entitled to the esteem in which he is held in the communities where he has lived and labored.

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## JOHN ANDREW BOWLER

An unusually large part of the business and professional leaders of the race in Richmond are not only Virginians, but are native Richmonders. This is gratifying and reflects credit on the leadership of the race in the preceding generation. One of the strong men in the religious and educational life of the city, who was born in Richmond, is Rev. John Andrew Bowler, A. M., pastor of the Mt. Olivet Baptist Church and teacher of the George Mason graded school. He was born in the midst of the war on March 1, 1862. His mother, Emily C. Bowler, was a daughter of Mortimer Bowler.

As a boy, young Bowler attended the local schools, passing through the Richmond Normal and High School. He



then entered Richmond Institute, now Va. Union University, and attended that institution for four years, 1877-1881. He was an energetic, enterprising youth. He started working as a boot-black and newsboy. His eagerness for an education may be measured by the fact that during his last year at the Institute he earned money with which to buy his books by shoveling snow—snow for which he had prayed. When he was graduated, he received his diploma with frost-bitten hands and had cash assets of one penny which he marked. That was in 1881.

He had been converted at the age of nine and joined the First Baptist Church. From an early age he felt called to preach and was licensed at thirty and ordained to the full work of the ministry in 1900.

In 1882 he began teaching in the third primary grade and was steadily promoted from grade to grade to the highest in the elementary schools of Richmond. He has been identified with the Richmond schools for thirty-eight years and has had the enduring satisfaction of seeing his school boys and girls grow up and occupy places of usefulness in this and other states.

He has also had a fruitful ministry in connection with his church work. Growing up in the Sunday School he moved from one position to another till he was Supt. of the School. He was at one time Pres. of the Sunday School Union of Richmond.

In 1899, he accepted the call to the pastorate of the Mt. Olivet Baptist Church. There were fourteen members meeting in a rented hall. A frame structure was built and paid for, costing over a thousand dollars. This soon became inadequate, three lots were bought, and a brick house of worship erected at an expense of over five thousand dollars. The membership has grown to over three hundred and now (1920) an extension costing twelve thousand dollars has been made. Thus it will be seen that Mr. Bowler is a man of constructive capacity and possessed of those qualities which wear well.

On Dec. 22, 1887, he was married to Miss Evlyn Flour-

noy Keene, a daughter of Elisha Keene of Danville. Of the six children born to them the following are living: Ethel G., J. Andrew, Jr., Evelyn H. and Antoinette E. Bowler.

Rev. Mr. Bowler is a Mason, an Elk, and a Pythian. In his reading he, of course, puts the Bible first. After that he has found history and biography most helpful. He believes that permanent progress must rest on fundamental principles. He says, "Educate the white people, educate my people till they both recognize that there is efficacy in the principle founded on the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man."

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## MARCELLUS HUBERT TYLER

It is gratifying to note that, among the successful professional men of Richmond, not a few of them are natives of the place. Especially is this true of some of the most successful physicians of the vicinity. Among these may be mentioned Dr. Marcellus Hubert Tyler, who was born in that part of the city now known as Manchester. The date of his birth was August 9, 1882. He is fortunate in that his father, Archie Tyler and his mother, Julia (Burford) Tyler, are both living. His paternal grandparents were William and Mary (Martin) Tyler. The maternal grandparents were Arthur and Martha Burford.

Young Tyler attended the local public schools, where he made for himself a most creditable record. For his literary and preparatory work he went to Shaw University, Raleigh, N. C., and later matriculated at Leonard Medical College, of the same institution, from which he was graduated with the M. D. degree in 1909 and began practicing at Manchester (now Richmond) the same year. He was successful from the beginning and has built up a general practice, of which a much older man might well be proud. He has always been a hard worker, and though it was necessary for him to make his own way through school, he did not let this difficulty discourage him. The influences of his home were good, and gave to his life the right direction.

He is a member of the Baptist Church and in politics is a Republican. He belongs to the Odd Fellows and holds membership in the Old Dominion and in the Richmond Medical Societies.

On November 12, 1916, Dr. Tyler was married to Miss Mary Logan of Manchester. They have two children, Ola B. and William Hubert Tyler. There is no more attractive home in Richmond than that occupied by the Tylers.

Dr. Tyler has had an opportunity to study conditions among his people in the most intimate sort of way, and is of the opinion that the only thing needed to insure the steady progress of the race is simply a square deal and a man's chance.

He is examiner for the Provident Relief Insurance Company. While of course he finds it necessary to keep abreast of the times in his professional reading, his favorite line of reading, after that, is history.

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## SAMUEL SOLOMON MORRIS

In every line of human endeavor the progress of the American people during the past 50 years has been phenomenal. Not all this progress has been of the better sort for it has been shot through with the idolatrous worship of materialism.

Some phases of it, however, when considered impartially give cause for encouragement. One of these phases is the forward movement of the Negro race, for admitting as we must the great distance it must yet travel, as a people, before reaching the standards of the more enlightened white peoples of the earth it must also be admitted that considering conditions the race has made the most substantial progress along educational, spiritual and material lines. It has developed many sane and wise leaders. One of these leaders is the Rev. Samuel S. Morris, D. D. of Norfolk, Va.

Dr. Morris was born at Portsmouth, Va., Sept. 2, 1878, son of Samuel and Lucinda Morris. His father was a laborer. His maternal grandparents, Wesley and Dinah Bartee, were

**SAMUEL SOLOMON MORRIS**



originally slaves in Norfolk Co., Va., but purchased their freedom, showing a degree of energy not common.

Young Morris, owing to the poverty of his parents, had to work his way through the higher schools. He attended the common schools of Norfolk Co., Providence, R. I., and Washington, D. C., and pursued his higher studies at Morris Brown College, graduating A. B., 1905, and Gammon Theological Seminary, both in Atlanta, Ga. He was graduated from Gammon in 1902. He has the A. M. degree from Morris Brown and B. D. from Turner Theological Seminary.

He was licensed as a local preacher of the A. M. E. Church July, 1899, and joined the Virginia Conference in April, 1901. He was transferred to Atlanta, Ga., Conference, Dec., 1901, and appointed to West End Mission, sent to Thomasville Station in Dec., 1903, appointed Supt. of Industrial Department in 1903, and transferred back to Virginia Conference April 26, 1905. By this time the young man was beginning to learn his powers. Sent to Tanner's Creek Circuit in Norfolk County, he found a large debt which he reduced. In April, 1908, he was appointed pastor of Macedonia Church in Suffolk, Va., where he found a mortgage of 20 years' standing which he had the pleasure of paying and burning during his pastorate and the further pleasure of being able to procure a mission site for a new church.

April, 1911, found him the pastor of Third St. Church, Richmond, Va., which during his pastorate he remodeled at a cost of \$15,000.00, and caused the name to be changed to Third St. Bethel Church. April, 1916, he was appointed pastor of St. John's Church, Norfolk, Va., in which church he placed steam heating apparatus and secured two sites for new churches. He became dollar Money King in his connection in the South, last report \$1,030.00, at the same time St. John's Church held 2nd and 3rd places in the connection on Easter Day missionary money.

His reputation for efficient work has steadily grown. In addition to his pastoral work, from 1906 to 1912, he had served as Statistical Secretary of the Virginia Conference.

He was sent as a delegate to the General Conferences of 1912, 1916, and 1920.

Wilberforce University, in recognition of his work and attainments conferred on him the degree of D. D. in 1919.

In addition to numerous other activities, Dr. Morris served as a member of the Missionary Board of his church 1912-1916 and of the Publication Board 1916-1920. Nothing was more natural, therefore, when in looking for one of the best men to fill one of the great positions in the church that the General Conference should select Dr. Morris for General Secretary of the Allen Christian Endeavor League of the A. M. E. Church, to which position he was elected May 15, 1920. All churches are waking up to the fact that the future of evangelical Christianity hinges upon the proper training of the young. They are supplementing the Sunday School work by powerful organizations into which they are putting many of the strong men and women. The Allen C. E. League of the A. M. E. Church works along constructive lines and in placing Dr. Morris at its head the church has given the strongest possible momentum to this invaluable and imperative work by giving it one of its strongest men both as an administrator and executive.

Outside of his church work Dr. Morris has been active in fraternal lines. From Nov., 1914, to Sept., 1916, he was Grand Worthy Master of the True Reformers, is R. W. Grand Junior Warden of the Grand Lodge of Virginia of the Masonic order, member of St. Lukes, and the Pythians.

During the world war he served as Chairman of the Colored Division of the Red Cross Society in Norfolk.

Dr. Morris married April 4, 1912, Miss Mamie H. Lawson, a daughter of James Madison and Mary Frances Lawson. They have three children, William Lawson, Samuel Merritt, and James Madison Morris.

Dr. Morris has traveled extensively in the States east of the Mississippi River. Has been a wide reader of works on religion, social service, history, etc., aside from which he has found much pleasure in Dickens, Shakespeare and Tennyson.

He considers the greatest factor in shaping his life has been the influence of his mother, a profoundly religious woman who yet survives at the ripe age of 81 and who for 50 years has taught in the Sunday School. To this was added the church influence, which was powerful after his fourteenth year.

As to how best to promote the interests of the race he says, "Enlarge educational facilities, encourage law abiding Negroes in their struggle upward, remove racial discriminations, give the race the right to ballott and square deal as to its labor, and let white men frequently confer with negro men on civic questions and matters of community betterment."

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## PERCY WORTHINGTON COOK

Rev. Percy Worthington Cook, a rising young Baptist preacher and educator of the Eastern Shore of Virginia, resides at Cape Charles. He is a native of Michigan, having been born at Detroit, November 4, 1883. His parents were Samuel and Mary Cook. His maternal grandparents were Alexander DeBaptise and Caroline Duncan.

As a boy, young Cook went to the public schools of Detroit, where he passed through the seventh grade. This was followed by the preparatory and academic courses leading to college, which he completed with the degree of A. B. in 1911. He then took the theological course leading to the B. D. degree. He made his own way through school, largely by hotel work and by service in private families. His ambition was aroused and his imagination stirred by the reading of the Book of Proverbs, to which his attention had been directed by some white friends.

Mr. Cook was converted when about seventeen years of age and joined the Baptist Church. He was licensed to preach by the Shiloh Baptist Church of Newport, R. I., in 1914 and ordained to the full work of the ministry by the same church later that year.

In the fall of 1914 he accepted a call to the pastorate of

the First Baptist Church at Cape Charles, Va., which he has served continuously since. As a measure of the appreciation in which he is held by the congregation it may be stated that his salary has been raised three times.

Mr. Cook's training has been such as to fit him for educational work as well as the pastorate, so on coming to Cape Charles he was offered a place in the Tidewater Institute at Chesapeake, which he accepted, and has since been identified with that institution.

The work of his church has greatly prospered, the membership has increased, the property has been improved and all debts against the church have been paid.

Naturally, he gives first place in his reading to those books relating to his professional work, after that, he finds help and inspiration in biography.

On June 2, 1914, Dr. Cook was married to Miss Charlotte W. Collins, of Eastville, Va. She was educated at the Norfolk Missionary College and was, before her marriage, a teacher. They have one child, Oliver W. Cook.

Dr. Cook is independent in politics and among the secret and benevolent orders is identified with the Masons and has been a prominent figure in the local Civic League. During the war he took an active part in all the campaigns and drives among his people. He believes the progress of the race depends on Christian education.

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## JOHN DOWNING WILLIAMS

John Downing Williams, M. D., of Manassas, Va., who though only in his early prime has by diligence and professional ability established himself strongly as a leading physician in his community.

Dr. Williams was born in the town where he now lives on June 24, 1886. He is a son of Rev. M. D. and Katie Edmonds Williams. His paternal grandparents were Adam and Bettie Edmonds.

His educational training was long and complete but he was compelled to put in years of strenuous labor to win

JOHN DOWNING WILLIAMS

out. In 1902 he graduated from the Manassas Industrial School. Entering the Academic Department of Virginia Union University, Richmond, Va., and completing the course there he entered the collegiate department of the same school and was graduated in 1910 with the degree of B. S. He then entered the College of Medicine at Howard University, Washington, D. C., and obtained his degree of M. D. in 1914. His total training period covered over twenty years and for twelve years of that time he paid his own way by his labor. His work carried him to various resorts in Canada, to Saratoga, New York, Narragansett Pier for several seasons, and seven seasons on the road. This work was peculiarly valuable as it made him a widely traveled man, by taking him over Canada, the eastern, northern and mid-western States and giving him an acquaintance with the prominent cities of that section. But his heart never strayed from the old home section and in 1915 he entered upon the practice of his profession in his native town.

In the six years intervening he has rapidly built up an extensive practice covering his home town and eight surrounding villages. He is medical examiner for three lodges and two insurance companies and is physician for the Manassas Industrial School.

His medical ability requires no stronger testimonial than the fact that a large part of his clientele is among white people.

In his school years he was partial to sports, playing on the baseball team for years and while at Virginia Union University captained both football and baseball teams. Aside from his medical studies his preferred reading is found in the works of English classical authors like Milton, Tennyson, Dickens, Scott and Browning.

Dr. Williams recognizes that the greatest factors in the shaping of his career were his high regard for parental counsel, the constant association with his parents, who were superior people in mental and moral character, and his own desire to be of service to the less fortunate.

Religiously a Baptist and politically a Republican, he is a Mason, an Odd Fellow, a member of the Alpha Phi Alpha college fraternity, member of former Interne's Association of Freedmen's Hospital, and the National Medical Asso.

The outstanding facts in this man's career are his patience and his indomitable perseverance in his training years, never letting up until he had obtained what he wanted, which brought him to the age of twenty-nine when he began to practice.

The instant success which followed shows him to have been of sound judgment in those formative years.

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## GEORGE HENRY WALKER

George Henry Walker of Portsmouth, like many other successful business and professional men of both races in the lower part of Virginia, is a native of the Old North State. He was born at the old town of Plymouth, N. C., Jan. 20, 1869. His parents were Henry and Harriet Walker, both of whom were slaves before Emancipation. Henry Walker was the son of Jeremiah and Harriet Walker. When he came of school age young Walker attended the local school. At that time there was a normal school at Plymouth and he entered that institution, from which he was graduated in 1890. He must have made a fine record as a student for he was able to begin teaching when only seventeen years of age, which was some time before his graduation from the Normal. Beginning in 1894, he taught school in Norfolk Co., Va., for ten years, and made for himself an enviable record as a teacher. During these years, he studied law under a private teacher and on April 26, 1896 was admitted to the bar. He kept up the practice till 1904, when, without abandoning the idea of being a lawyer, he entered the postal service which insured a steady income. In the meantime, banks were being organized among his people, corporations were being created, and the field for the Negro lawyer steadily becoming more inviting. Accordingly in 1920, he returned to his first love and

**GEORGE HENRY WALKER**



is again in the active practice at Portsmouth, with every promise of success.

Mr. Walker was married on Aug. 31, 1910, to Miss Sallie Bettie Barnes, a daughter of Demus and Hariett Barnes of Tarboro, N. C. They have one son, George Henry Walker, Jr.

In politics, Mr. Walker is a Republican. He is a member of the A. M. E. Church, but is not now active in any of the secret orders. As he looks back over the years of his boyhood he is of the opinion that the greatest influence in his life has been the contact with men and the study of their lives as recorded in biographies. Next after his professional reading he has a fondness for the standard English and American authors.

He believes progress depends upon "organization, co-operation, agitation, preparation, and combination." He says, "We must have faith in each other, combine and marshall our resources for the business advancement of the race."

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## **JAMES HEYWARD BLACKWELL**

For the last quarter of a century Prof. James Heyward Blackwell of Richmond has been one of the constructive factors in the educational life of Virginia. The brilliant record he made as a student was but a prophecy of what he was to become as an educator.

Prof. Blackwell is a native of Smyth County, having been born at Marion during the war, on Feb. 5, 1864. His father, James W. Blackwell, was a stone mason and was the son of William Blackwell. Prof. Blackwell's mother was, before her marriage, Miss Charlotte Chatham, the daughter of Mrs. Winnie Chatham, and was a nurse in one of the leading families in Virginia.

When young Blackwell was five years of age the family moved to that part of Richmond which was then known as Manchester and it was here that the boy laid the foundation of his education in the public schools. After a brilliant record in the public schools he passed to Richmond Institute,



now Virginia Union University, from which he was graduated at the age of seventeen. Later he did special work at Hampton, Va. Normal and Collegiate Institute, Va. Union University, Princeton, and Columbia University. He has the Ph. D. degree from Princeton, where he specialized in philosophy. He began teaching in 1883 and for twenty-seven consecutive years was principal of the Manchester High School. He was President of the Smallwood Institute at Claremont for two years, 1915 and 1916, and is now (1921) connected with the Buchanan school.

Prof. Blackwell has kept in close touch, and that in a sympathetic way, with all the larger movements in educational affairs and has contributed not a little to raising the standard of teaching in the colored schools of the State. He has taken an active interest in the summer institutes and normals either as a conductor or instructor.

Prof. Blackwell is a skillful penman and was at one time President of the Richmond Business College.

During the month of July, 1919, he specialized in penmanship and lettering in the A. N. Palmer Institute, New York City, and graduated with a class of one hundred and seventy-six. Most of the members were supervisors of penmanship in high schools and colleges, representing 34 States, he being the only member of his race.

All his life he has been active and energetic. As a boy he worked mornings and evenings selling papers. Later he filled the vacation periods with insurance work and other business employment. His ability as a business man came to be recognized and his services have been sought by various organizations and institutions. He was for five years President of the Benevolent Aid Insurance Society of Virginia, two years Secretary-Manager of the South Richmond Realty Corporation.

He is a director of the True Reformers, director of the Second Street Savings Bank, and Secretary of the Smallwood-Corey Industrial and Collegiate Institute. He has been Treasurer of the Virginia Baptist State Sunday School Convention for twenty years. He is a member of the Bap-

tist Church in which he is a trustee, and was for a long time Superintendent of the Sunday School.

On July 8, 1885, Prof. Blackwell was married to Miss Annie Jordan, teacher in Peabody High School, a daughter of Armistead and Harriett Jordan, and sister of Hon. W. H. Jordan, a member of the Virginia Legislature. They have three children, Hattie B. (Mrs. Carter), James H., Jr., whose biography appears elsewhere in this volume, and George W. Blackwell, a former Assistant Prosecuting Attorney for the City of Chicago.

Among the secret orders and benevolent societies, Prof. Blackwell is identified with the Masons, Odd Fellows, True Reformers, St. Lukes and other local orders. In politics he is a Republican.

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## NELSON BENJAMIN BROWN

In a situation where men work in groups or where they are engaged in a common task, a man may sometimes cover up his inefficiency or shirk his part of the task. The pastorate of a Baptist church is different. Here a man rises or falls on his merit. Each church elects its own pastor as there is no appointive power. So when one finds a country boy rising steadily from the obscurity and manual labor of the farm to the pulpit of a growing city church it is evidence of personal application, strength and ability. This is illustrated in the life and work of Rev. Nelson Benjamin Brown, B. Th., pastor of the Bethlehem Baptist Church, of Norfolk, Va.

He was born in the old county of Powhatan on Aug. 17, 1864, less than a year before the close of that struggle which was to set him and his race in America free.

His parents, Richard and Rosa Brown, were both slaves. His paternal grandparents were Richard and Mary Brown. On his mother's side, his grandparents were John and Hattie Diggs.

Young Brown grew up on the farm, where he laid the foundation of that sturdy strength which has stood so well.

the strain of the years. He went to the local district school. When about fourteen years of age he gave his heart to God and immediately felt called to preach the Gospel. He joined the First Antioch Church of Powhatan and remained on the farm till he was twenty-one. At that age he came to Richmond and went to work in the rolling mill. He became active in church work and was for some years Supt. of the Moore Street Sunday School and Treasurer of the Richmond Sunday School Association.

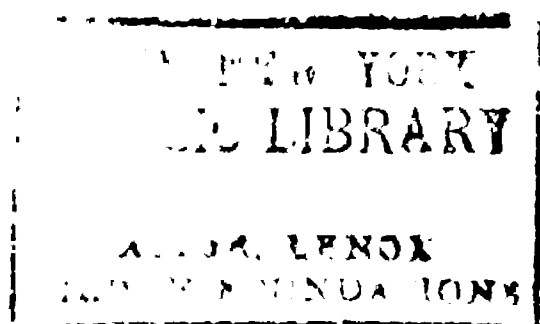
Later he entered Virginia Union University, where he took the English Course, which was followed by the course in theology. He completed the latter with the B. Th. degree in 1901. On March 7, 1895, he was ordained to the full work of the Gospel ministry and accepted the call of the Mt. Olive Baptist Church of Chesterfield County, which he served twelve years. A new house of worship was erected and the membership built up. Later he was called to Union Baptist Church of Ashland, which he pastored for four years and repaired the church. In 1905 he resigned both these churches to accept a call to the pulpit of Rising Mt. Zion in that part of Richmond known as Fulton. He cleared the property of a heavy debt and served that church till the fall of 1920, when he resigned to accept the pastorate of the Bethlehem Church of Norfolk.

Early in the ministry Dr. Brown developed into a successful evangelist and is much in demand among the brotherhood for revival work, in which he has been very successful.

Dr. Brown was first married, Sept. 26, 1890, to Miss Alice Smith, daughter of Rev. Archer Smith and Martha Smith. On Oct. 22, 1918, he was married the second time to Miss Sallie F. Stanard, a daughter of James and Mary Stanard. He has one child, Annie W. Campbell.

In politics Dr. Brown is a Republican and when a young man was more or less active. He is a Mason and belongs to the Ideals, the Shepherds, and St. Lukes. He is Treasurer of the Foreign Mission Board of the Virginia General Association. He believes that "When those in authority

**NELSON BENJAMIN BROWN**



and those who have control, because of their worth, recognize the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man, antagonism will cease and our problems will settle themselves."

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## ALFRED FRANKLIN BROOKS

Albert Franklin Brooks of Roanoke is one of those quiet but resourceful men who constitute the best asset of any community. He is one of the most substantial men of his race in the prosperous little city of Roanoke. He was born at Hale's Ford in Franklin County on June 24, 1866, a little more than a year after the close of the war. So it will be seen that the life of Mr. Brooks corresponds very nearly with the period of the freedom of his people. His mother's name was Charity Brown.

Mr. Brooks has been married twice. His first marriage was on Sept. 4, 1897, to Miss Mary L. Claiborne of Danville, Va. She bore him four children. The names of those living are Albert F., Jr., and Dorothy E. Brooks. Mrs. Brooks passed to her reward in 1918. Subsequent to her death Mr. Brooks was married the second time to Miss Claudine P. Oliver, a daughter of Jesse and Catherine Oliver of Hollins, Va. Mrs. Brooks was educated at V. N. I. I., Petersburg, Va.

Young Brooks attended the rural schools as a boy. The difficulties in the way may be inferred from the fact that he walked back and forth each day to a school six miles from his home. This school, taught by a single teacher was held in a one room building poorly heated and poorly ventilated, while all the equipment was home made.

From boyhood Mr. Brooks showed qualities of persistence and steadiness which in the man have developed into what may best be termed stability. In 1890 he became a mail carrier at Roanoke and for thirty-one years has remained in the service. He has seen Roanoke grow from a small town to a prosperous city. Being a good judge of values, he early saw the advantage of putting his money in local



**ALFRED FRANKLIN BROOKS**

real estate and has found that line of work profitable. He also has mercantile interests and is identified with the local moving picture house for colored people. He is an intelligent man and a good citizen. His principal reading consists of the current newspapers and magazines. He is a member of the Presbyterian church and belongs to the Masons, Pythians, the N. A. A. C. P. and the National Negro Business League. He is also a member of the Burrell Memorial Hospital Association.

Mr. Brooks has done two things. He has succeeded himself and by his methods has illustrated and pointed the way by which others may succeed. He has thought of conditions as he worked and is of the opinion that "any people will become strong through an absorbing interest in church and school with proper attention to health and personal possessions.

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## CORNELIUS SAMPSON COWAN

In proportion to population the old town of Wilmington, N. C., has produced a large number of men of both races who, in North Carolina and in other states, have made their mark in life.

One of the successful young professional men of Richmond is a native of Wilmington. Dr. Cornelius Sampson Cowan, a prominent dentist of Richmond, was born on June 26, 1882. His father, Hammond Cowan, was a fireman. His mother, who, before her marriage, was Miss Dicy Sutherland, was a daughter of Maria Sutherland. She was ambitious for the boy and he owes perhaps to her influence and direction more than anything else the encouragement and help which spurred him to action in the struggles of life.

He started to school when he scarcely knew the importance of it, and his mother held before him right ideals and proper conduct. He attended the Wilmington public schools as a boy and between terms worked about town and in a grocery store. He early determined to secure a college

CORNELIUS SAMPSON COWAN

education and after that to enter professional life. Entering Howard University for his college course, he won his A. B. degree in 1909. Following this he took up the course in dentistry and won the D. D. S. degree in 1913. These years in college were years of hard work and careful economy. He worked before and after school and then as soon as the term was over would get into railroad, steamboat, or hotel work and thus during his vacations earn money for the following term. He was more or less active in college athletics and was on the baseball team four years.

After completing his course he spent the rest of 1913 at work so as to equip an office and began the practice of his profession in Richmond, where he has since resided. He has already built up a practice which would be a credit to a much older man.

On Dec. 31, 1912, he was married to Miss Annie S. Hawkins of Henderson, N. C. Mrs. Cowan was educated at Henderson Normal College.

Dr. Cowan is a member of the A. M. E. Church. He belongs to the Old Dominion, the Peter B. Ramsey, and the Inter-State Dental Associations as well as the National Medical Association.

He has taken no active part in the work of the secret orders, but is a member of the Independent Beneficial Club. He believes that the greatest need of the race today is educational betterment, by which he means more than mere schools and schooling. Dr. Cowan is a rather extensive reader of general literature. His property interests are all in Richmond.

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## EDWARD WELLINGTON BROWNE

Rev. Edward Wellington Browne, a prominent minister of the Baptist denomination in Virginia, resides at Portsmouth. He was born at Hampton on January 11, 1873, and is the son of Edward and Euseba (Clements) Browne. His maternal grandparents were Harry and Cherry Clements. Although slaves, they had an opportunity to acquire some edu-

cation, and the family has always ranked high for intelligence and sterling worth.

On Oct. 30, 1896, Dr. Browne was married to Miss Nannie Ruffin Allen, a daughter of Joseph R. and Lucy H. Allen. They have two children, George W. C. Browne, a story of whose career is printed elsewhere in this volume, and Marion E. Browne, an accomplished young lady.

The subject of our sketch had the distinct advantage of easy access to the now justly famous Hampton Institute, where he did his preparatory work. Later he attended Virginia Normal & Collegiate Institute, from which he was graduated in 1900. In addition to this sound and thorough training, Dr. Brown has been a profound student of the Bible, history, and other classics, and has traveled in every section of the United States.

He began his business career as clerk and bookkeeper in a bank, passing from that to editorial and general newspaper work for fifteen years.

While converted, and drawn into the active work of the Baptist Church when only twelve years of age, it was not until 1904 that he felt that he must surrender his journalistic and business career for the work of the ministry. His ordination was notable, in that it was impressively solemnized in the presence of some of the most remarkable figures in the denomination. The Rev. Z. D. Lewis, pastor of the Second Baptist Church of Richmond, was catechiser, Dr. W. T. Johnson of the First Baptist Church was chairman, and Dr. W. H. Stokes of the Ebenezer Baptist Church was secretary.

It is not surprising to find that a man of such fine natural gifts and culture should have immediately been successful in the pastorate, to which he brought such excellent talents. In fact, he has had but two charges, the first being at Tappahannock and the present one at Portsmouth, where a handsome new church edifice to cost about \$90,000.00, and which will seat 1,500, is rapidly nearing completion. This church is one of the strong churches of the

denomination in Virginia requiring just that high type of leadership such as is found in Dr. Browne.

Dr. Browne is affiliated with the Masons, the K. P.'s, Knights of Jerusalem and St. Lukes, and has been Worthy Master and Secretary of the first order. In politics he is a Republican and was for eight years Commissioner of Revenue of Prince George County, Virginia.

While he has not given his attention for years to the accumulation of money for himself, Dr. Browne has accumulated a modest competence. He has no suggestion, in words, as to what may be most necessary for the progress of the race. Indeed, his own life and work are a living example of aspiration, preparation, and recognition that if all cannot do so well, surely proper effort would bring the firm and forward step all along the line.

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## ROGER WILLIAMS LOMAX

Among the colored physicians of Virginia who are making good in their chosen profession, Roger Williams Lomax, M. D., of Lynchburg, Va., deserves honorable place.

Dr. Lomax is yet a young man, born in Buckingham County, Va., May 24, 1881, son of E. S. and Josephine Lomax. E. S. Lomax, originally a farmer, took up the teaching profession, which he followed for thirty-five years, having the distinction of being the first colored teacher in his county. His wife followed him into the teaching profession and for twenty-five years was active in the work. Mary Lomax was the mother of E. S. Lomax, and Elizabeth Archer was the mother of his wife.

There was evidently good quality in the family. Young Lomax attended the public schools of Buckingham, his mother being his teacher, and then he went to Petersburg where he took a normal course of two years, making a fine record. After teaching two years in the public schools of his home county, he entered the Leonard Medical College, of Shaw University, Raleigh, N. C.

During vacations he went North, worked in hotels and

**ROGER WILLIAMS LOMAX**

was thus able to continue his medical course without a break. In 1907 he was graduated and entered upon the practice of his profession at Pocahontas, Va., where he remained two years and then moved to Lynchburg, where he has since resided and built up a good practice.

Dr. Lomax is a man of one work, his profession has absorbed all his time and energy. He counts as the greatest factor in the shaping of his life, his mother and the home training. A strong believer in the Christian faith, he is not a denominational man, but finds his preferred reading, outside his professional studies, in religious books. He is persuaded that "Christian Ideals" will do more towards building up his race than any other, or all other things. Politically he adheres to the Republican party but takes no active part in politics. Is a member of the Hill City Medical Society.

Dr. Lomax was married September 22, 1906, to Miss Ophelia B. Terry, daughter of Egbert and Margaret L. Terry of Charlottesville Va. She was educated at the Virginia Normal and Collegiate Institute at Petersburg, Va. They have four children, Bernice E., Roger W., Jr., Olga L., and Wendell W. Lomax.

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## PRESTON HENRY MAYS

Preston Henry Mays of Blacksburg occupies a unique place among his people in that little mountain town and in connection with the Virginia Polytechnic Institute, with which he has been identified for seventeen years. He is a native of Montgomery County, where he was born August 24, 1881. His father, Andy Mays, was a laborer and his mother, before her marriage, was a Miss Jackson. As a boy, young Mays worked with his father on the farm and later in the stock business.

All his life he has been a hard worker, and all his life he has been trustworthy and reliable. He went to the public school at Blacksburg.



**PRESTON HENRY MAYS**

He lost his parents at an early age and then had to make his own way in life. From his youth he has been identified with the A. M. E. Church and is the most prominent member of the local church in which he is trustee, steward, treasurer, and Supt. of the Sunday School. He is also leader of the choir. Among the benevolent orders, he belongs to the St. Lukes.

In politics he is a Republican and by close and sympathetic work among his people seeks to instruct them in matters pertaining to good citizenship. He was at the training camp during the war, but was not called to go over seas.

He did very effective work during the Red Cross campaign, reaching many of his people who had never before taken any part in outside affairs.

It is perhaps in connection with his work at the V. P. I. Hospital that he is most widely known. For seventeen years he has been identified with this institution, and knows young men from every part of the state and many sections of the South. He is held in high esteem by the physicians and authorities.

He has one of the most attractive homes of any colored man in his town and everybody in Blacksburg knows him and his word is good for anything he wants.

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## FRED DOUGLAS HOLMES

Someone has suggested that God deals with men according to their capacities. His Divine grace has been likened to the flow of the river which adjusts itself to the bank. Be that as it may, the Rev. Fred Douglas Holmes of Norfolk has had some peculiar and unusual experiences in life. He is a native of the Old North State, having been born at Salisbury on March 15, 1882. His parents, both of whom survive (1920) are Alexander and Eliza Holmes. Alexander Holmes was a son of Alexander and Viney J. Holmes and Rev. Holmes.

Growing up in Salisbury, he attended the local school and passed from the grades to Livingstone College for three

**FRED DOUGLAS HOLMES**

years. Living, as he did, in a college town, he experienced no great difficulty in getting an education, but had to work during vacation and spare time on public work, including considerable railroading.

He was converted at the early age of thirteen, but even before that he felt that his work in life must be that of the ministry, though he had a leaning toward medicine. In fact, when he was not more than ten years old, he saw clearly, as in a vision, the plan of his life for more than a quarter of a century. The struggles and the victories of the years ahead were revealed to him, and his experiences in life have followed very closely the details of that vision of his youth.

After completing his theological work at Livingstone College, Rev. Holmes joined the A. M. E. Zion Conference in 1911, at Wadesboro, under the late lamented Bishop J. W. Hood. He was sent to Thomasville, where he preached for one year. At the end of that time, he was transferred to the Virginia Conference and assigned to the Portsmouth Station, where he preached for three years and repaired the house of worship. He was then sent to Berkley for two years, where he also made extensive repairs. He is now (1920) on the Sycamore Hill circuit which, while under the Virginia Conference, is located in North Carolina. Under his ministry, a new house of worship is being erected which, when completed, will be the finest church building of any denomination of either race in Gates County.

Mr. Holmes has attended two General Conferences of his denomination. Before joining the Conference, he taught school for two winters in the public schools of Rowan County, N. C.

While he is a Republican in politics, he has not been active. He is identified with the Gideons, the Order of Melchisedec, and the True Reformers. He taught school at Norfolk for a while, and believes that the progress of the

He has had a fruitful ministry for a man of his age and race depends upon the right sort of education.

is steadily making for himself a prominent place in the larger work of the denomination.

On December 26, 1906, he was married to Miss Fannie Minter, of Sanford, N. C. Mrs. Holmes was educated at the Mary Potter School at Oxford.

Rev. Holmes, in his reading, gives first attention to the Bible and theology. After that, he browses around in a very general sort of way, keeping abreast of the times.

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## EDWARD THOMAS CONNOR

Dr. Edward Thomas Connor, a prominent physician of Clifton Forge, Va., was born in Pulaski Co., Va., on May 20, 1869, son of Harvey Thomas and Lousetta Jane Ingram Connor. In Dr. Connor, three racial strains unite. His paternal grandfather was a Chickasaw Indian, his paternal grandmother was Negro and White, his maternal grandfather was Negro and White, his maternal grandmother was Negro. Working this out mathematically, it might be said that his blood is one-quarter Indian and three-eighths White and three-eighths Negro. In his case the combination has worked well.

Dr. Connor's father combined farming and shoemaking, so when a lad he had only such advantages as could be given him by a small farmer and country mechanic.

He attended the public schools, such as they were, did the usual tasks of a country boy and hungered for education. Arriving at the point where he could work his way, he began his educational course in the Virginia Normal and Collegiate Institute at Petersburg, Va., and was graduated from that institution in 1895. He then entered the Leonard Medical College of Shaw University at Raleigh, N. C., and won his M. D. degree in 1899.

He also put in some time at Howard University. During his collegiate course Dr. Connor paid his expenses by hotel work in summer and ran a school barber shop in winter. July 15, 1900, being then in his thirty-second year he estab-



lished himself in the practice of his profession at Clifton Forge.

He must have met with a degree of success at the very beginning for on June 20, 1901, he married Nannie Ross McClanahan, daughter of Stuart and Sophronia McClanahan. Mrs. McClanahan was a full blooded Cherokee Indian.

The doctors say that he kept everlastingly at it, paid strict attention to his affairs and based his professional and business life on truth and honesty. His professional growth has been steady and his material return satisfactory. In addition to his practice which is remunerative, he conducts a farm, and has accumulated valuable unincumbered property worth twenty thousand dollars or more.

Most of his travel has been confined to the Eastern United States and Canada.

He is a Republican in politics, though not taking any part beyond voting, a Methodist in religion, and is affiliated with Masons and the Knights of Pythias, for which he is medical examiner. In the last named he held the office of Chancellor Commander for eight years.

He is local examiner for the N. C. Mutual Life Ins. Co. and the Standard Life Ins. Co.

In answer to the question as to how the best interests of his race may be promoted we quote Dr. Connor's words: "By a thorough and systematical education of all the boys and girls along lines suited to their talents and giving them an equal chance to work out their destinies." Dr. Connor has made character, money, and professional standing, and those things spell success along proper lines.

He is a member of the Old Dominion and the National Medical Associations and is local examiner for the order of Love and Charity. He is the only colored physician at Clifton Forge. During the war he volunteered in the M. R. C. and was active in Red Cross work. Perhaps two-thirds of his practice is white and his relationships with the local white doctors is cordial.

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## EMMA V. KELLY

The present generation has been remarkable for the number of women who have come to the front in business and professional life. This movement has been confined to neither race, nor to any section; but has been a general tendency over the whole country.

Mrs. Emma V. Kelley of Norfolk is one of those women who, by patient, unwearied, self-reliant industry, has risen from comparative obscurity to a place of prominence and leadership. In religious work, and in the work of the benevolent societies, her career proves beautifully the worth of persistence.

She was born at Barretts Neck, in Nansemond County on Feb. 8, 1867, and is a daughter of John and Agnes (Walker) Lee. On May 16, 1893, she was married to Mr. Robert Kelley, who passed away about ten years later, leaving one daughter, Buena Vista Kelley, since grown to womanhood and now Mrs. Jackson.

Mrs. Kelley first attended the public school and later went to Hampton for three years, after which she taught for a similar period in the rural schools.

After the passing away of her husband, confronted by the necessity of supporting herself and of rearing and educating her daughter, she went bravely to work and has not only succeeded, but has won distinction in the line of her own work, and in connection with the organizations with which she is identified.

She is a member of the Queen Street Baptist Church and is Superintendent of the Sunday School, which position she has filled for nine years. Her pastor, Dr. Williams, speaks of her work in the most glowing terms. The school has been entirely re-organized and has grown from a membership of 150 to nearly 700 under her leadership. She is president of the local Missionary Circle and is a member of the board of the W. B. M. U.

She is a familiar figure at all State and national conventions and has frequently been heard with pleasure on vari-



EMMA V. KELLEY

ous platforms, not only in Virginia, but over the country generally.

It is perhaps in connection with her work for the Daughters of the Improved Benevolent Protective Order of Elks that Mrs. Kelley is best and most widely known. She is the Grand Noble Secretary of this Order and is Grand President of the Ladies' Aid of the Supreme United Order of Bottimore. She organized the Daughters' Department of Elks and has been Grand Secretary for eighteen years. For a long time she did organization, or field work, which took her into every part of the country. She set up personally a third of the Temples now in existence. At this time (1920) her work is largely executive and she does less traveling than formerly. She was one of the organizers of the Legion and Ladies of Caldean, with which she has been identified as Supreme Secretary for fourteen years. She worked out and put on the endowment feature of that organization. She supplies the various Temples with regalia through her office, much of which was formerly made under her personal direction.

Few women of her race have a firmer grasp or more intimate knowledge of conditions in the country over than has Mrs. Kelley. It is gratifying to note that she has prospered financially in connection with her work and is one of the well-to-do women of her race in Norfolk. She believes that better conditions are to be hoped for by improvement in the schools, by better housing and by woman suffrage.

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## WELCOME TURNER JONES

The movement of the Negro population has usually been from the South toward the North. Occasionally, however, one finds a capable man who was born, reared, and trained in the North but who, realizing the larger field for his professional services in the South, has fully identified himself with the interests of his race in that section. Such a man is Dr. Welcome Turner Jones of Newport News, who was

**WELCOME TURNER JONES**

born at Canonsburg, Penn., just after the close of the war, on November 13, 1865. His father, Rev. S. T. Jones, was a Methodist minister and was a son of Samuel Jones. His mother, Margaret A. Jones, was a daughter of George and Frances Hilton.

Dr. Jones attended the local public schools in Pennsylvania and passed from there to Washington and Jefferson College, where he won the A. B. degree in 1890. For his medical course he went to the Western Reserve University, at Cleveland, where he won the M. D. degree in 1893. He was never afraid of work, and was accustomed to do whatever was necessary to earn money for his college courses. At one time he did hard labor in a brick yard, and later in harvest fields, while during the winter he worked at a florist establishment and by these and other means helped himself through university.

On completion of his course in 1893, he came to Virginia, passed the State Board and located at Norfolk, where he practiced for two years. In 1895 he crossed over to Newport News, where he has since resided and in the 25 years of his practice has firmly established himself and built up a lucrative practice. While he has of necessity had to do a general practice, he has given special attention to diseases of children.

In 1900 Washington and Jefferson College conferred on him the A. M. degree. He is a prominent member of the A. M. E. Church, with which he has been identified for a number of years. Among the secret and benevolent orders, he belongs to the Masons, Odd Fellows, Pythians, Elks, and Tabors. He is medical examiner for a number of these, and also for the Richmond Beneficial Association.

Dr. Jones is a skilful musician and plays the bass-viol and the mandolin.

On February 22, 1899, he was married to Miss Bessie Lucas of Oil City, Penn. They have two children, Margaret L. and Annetta F. Jones both of whom have been given the best educational advantages.

Dr. Jones is a member of the Tidewater, the Old Domin-

ion, and the National Medical organizations. He is a very busy man, but still finds some time for reading and his preferences run to poetry and the English and American classics. He believes that the permanent progress of the race depends upon closer unity and a spirit of co-operation.

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## EDWARD RICHARD DUDLEY

Even the most sanguine friends of the Negro race would hardly have ventured to prophesy thirty years ago that the present state of forwardness could be reached by 1920. The end of the Civil War found the representative men of the race mostly preachers, of a sort, and mainly illiterate. Then a perfect passion for learning began to color the minds of the race, and in an incredibly short time we began to see preachers of fair or good attainments, and numerous school teachers. Then came lawyers, doctors, dentists, and lastly business men. Meantime the colored farmer had made progress. Negro mechanics we have always had. The last step is not far distant and the next generation will see negro manufacturers conducting large operations.

Among the progressive younger men of the race is Dr. Edward Richard Dudley, a dentist of Roanoke, Va., who deserves honorable mention.

Dr. Dudley was born in New Bern, N. C., Sept. 4, 1882, son of Edward Richard Dudley and his wife Caroline (Brown) Dudley.

As a lad young Dudley attended the New Bern public schools and then struck out to work his way through to a profession. He went through Biddle University, Charlotte, N. C., graduating in 1905 with the degree of A. B.

Then he entered the Dental Department of Howard University and was graduated in 1909 with his degree of D. D. S. Hotel work and Pullman service had pulled him through. There were times when he did not know where the next meal would come from, but he would not give up and so continued to work and pray until success crowned his efforts.



In looking back at this period he gratefully realizes that Bishop C. C. Petty of the A. M. E. Zion Church was a most helpful source of inspiration, as well as receiving financial aid from an older brother and his wife, for which he has always felt very grateful. In the Pullman service he traveled extensively in this country and Canada, keeping his eyes and ears open and by doing this, learned much of great value about men, which is the sort of knowledge that cannot be acquired from books.

Dr. Dudley began the practice of his profession in 1909 at New Bern, his native town, but in February, 1911, he moved to Roanoke, as it afforded a larger field of service and so a better opportunity.

He has built up a lucrative practice which keeps him constantly busy. He has saved money, investing it locally, and today he is among the business leaders of Roanoke.

Dr. Dudley has been twice married, first on June 1, 1910, to Nellie D. Johnson of Raleigh, N. C., of whom he says, "A splendid woman, a helper and withal a true disciple of Jesus Christ; she was my guide, my confessor, and my advisor, during those trying days of economic necessity, when the wolf was ever ready to knock and did knock upon the pantry door." She was educated at Scotia Seminary, Concord, N. C., and was a teacher in the Charlotte public schools. Of this marriage there is one son, Edward Richard Dudley, Jr. Mrs. Dudley died in 1917 and on Nov. 20, 1919, a second marriage was contracted with Theresa M. Henicke, of West Virginia, who was educated at Fisk University.

Dr. Dudley is a Republican in politics, but confines his activities to voting. He is an active member of the Presbyterian Church, being a deacon, the treasurer, and teacher of the Men's Bible Class.

During the war he volunteered for dental work but was not called into the service. He was an organizer and is now President of the Magic City Building and Loan Association, which has now been in successful operation for five years, and which is incorporated under a charter for \$50,000.00.

He is a member of the Old Dominion State Dental Association and the Interstate Dental Association, being Chairman of the Executive Board of the latter. He is interested in the Cosmopolitan Company of Roanoke, a corporation doing a real estate and building business.

Dr. Dudley pins his faith to the stabilizing influences of property and education as the best things for the race's temporal interest, "but this must be with the God of our fathers in the foreground of all of our activities."

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## CHARLES EDWARD JONES

Rev. Charles Edward Jones, B. D., pastor of the Zion Baptist Church of Newport News, is a good soldier of the cross and has been in the active work of the ministry for twenty years. He has accomplished a splendid work at Newport News and the fact that he has remained in this one field so long, shows that he possesses, in a large measure, those sterling qualities that wear well. He is a native of Campbell County, having been born at Concord Depot on July 31, 1877. His parents were Squire and Summerfield Jones. The grandparents on his father's side were Paschal and Angeline Jones, on the maternal side his grandparents were Richard and Easter Underwood.

Young Jones had the good fortune to be brought up in a Christian home and he reckons that early influence the most potent factor in shaping his life for good. It gave tone and direction to the formative years of his life and affected his whole career. It is not strange, therefore, that he gave his heart to God at the tender age of eleven. By the time he was thirteen he had felt and had accepted the call to preach the Gospel and began from that time forth to prepare himself for that great work. As a boy he attended the rural schools of Campbell County. Later he entered the Virginia Theological Seminary and College at Lynchburg, where he spent several years. He carried along his literary and theological work together and won his B. D. degree in 1901. In that same year he was ordained



to the full work of the ministry by the State Board of the Va. Baptist State Convention and appointed State Missionary.

After four months in this work he was called to his present pastorate. The situation which confronted the young preacher appeared hopeless enough. The membership of the church had dwindled to thirteen and the church property was already advertised to be sold. With characteristic zeal and energy he went to work. All the details of twenty years of hard work can not be put down here but some measure of his success may be inferred from the fact that the membership of the church has grown from thirteen to eight hundred. Not only has the plant been cleared of debt but a new house of worship has been erected and represents an expenditure of fifty-five thousand dollars.

Dr. Jones is much in demand for evangelistic work in every part of the country and has been instrumental in bringing many into the fold. During his young manhood Dr. Jones taught school for a few years but it is as a preacher that he is best known.

On April 22, 1903, Dr. Jones was happily married to Mrs. Alice (Walker) Harris of Hanover County. Mrs. Jones was educated at Temple College, Philadelphia, and is a woman of superior accomplishments and an earnest Christian worker. She is president of the Woman's Baptist State Convention. Dr. and Mrs. Jones have one daughter, Summerfield Frances H. Jones. It is interesting to note that the happy Christian influences of the home in which she was reared produced a desire to be of service to the race in some large way. Accordingly Miss Jones has volunteered for missionary work in Africa and is now (1921) preparing for that field.

Among the secret and benevolent orders, Dr. Jones belongs to the Masons, Pythians, and St. Lukes. In politics he is a Republican. During the war he took an active part in all the campaigns and drives and was in demand for camp work. He is a member and Secretary of the Executive Board of the Va. Baptist State Convention and a trus-

tee of the Virginia Theological Seminary and College. He believes that the permanent progress of the race must rest on such fundamental things as the right home training and proper education. Next after the Bible his favorite reading is history.

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## WALTER EDWARD WOODYARD

The secondary schools of the South, for both races, occupy a unique place in the educational life of the South. They serve as feeders to the denominational colleges and universities and at the same time relieve them from the necessity of expending their time and energy on elementary and high school work, they train boys and girls to teach in the public schools, they give many a struggling youth a start, who might otherwise never get to college, and best of all they keep religion and education going along hand in hand.

Lacking the support of public funds and in a way coming into competition with the public schools, State and local, it requires a man of unusual ability as an educator and as an executive to make a success of such an institution. The Board of Education of the A. M. E. Zion Church is fortunate in having at the head of the Dinwiddie Normal and Industrial School at Dinwiddie just such a man in the person of Prof. Walter Edward Woodyard. Virginia is indebted to Alabama for Prof. Woodyard. He was born in the historic old town of Mobile on Dec. 7, 1878.

He laid the foundation of his education at Emerson Institute, Mobile. At sixteen years of age he went to Fisk University, Nashville. He spent three years in the preparatory department and four in college, completing the college course in 1902 with the A. B. degree. In 1917 Livingstone College conferred on him the A. M. degree in recognition of his attainments as an educator.

From the days of his youth, Prof. Woodyard has been prompted to do his best work by a desire to render efficient

**WALTER EDWARD WOODYARD**

service. This he feels has been the greatest single factor in the shaping of his life.

Following his graduation from Fisk, he became principal of the high school at Springfield, Tenn., for the school years of 1902 -1903. The following year he taught Latin at the A. & M. College, Normal, Ala.

Going to the celebrated St. Paul's School at Lawrenceville, Va., in 1904, he was Director of the Literary Department of that institution for two years. From 1906-1907 he taught in the public schools of his native town of Mobile. From 1909-1915 he was Principal of the Edenton Normal School, a denominational school at Edenton, N. C. In 1915 he came to his present work. Under his administration the school has reached its highest enrollment and experienced its greatest prosperity. The enrollment has grown from thirty-five to one hundred sixty-seven, more than a hundred of whom are boarding pupils. The debt with which the property was encumbered, has been cancelled, the curriculum revised and the faculty increased from five to ten. The character of the work done may be inferred from the fact that the graduates of the school are accepted by the State as teachers without examination and Howard University admits them to the Junior College.

Mr. Woodyard has long been active in the work of the A. M. E. Zion Church in which he has held numerous positions. He has attended three General Conferences and was one of the Secretaries of the Knoxville General Conference in 1920.

In politics he is a Republican and among the secret orders is identified with the Masons, Odd Fellows and Pythians. His reading is largely along the line of his work.

On Dec. 14, 1910, Mr. Woodyard was married to Miss Annie C. Johnson of Edenton, N. C. Mrs. Woodyard is also an accomplished teacher.

Mr. Woodyard's ideas about the progress of the race are fundamental. He believes first of all in the manhood of the race and thinks any advantage too dear if purchased

at the cost of manhood. He believes in the education of all citizens to the true ideals of American citizenship and the religion of Jesus Christ.

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## JOHN TALMADGE GIVENS

Dr. John Talmadge Givens, one of the youngest of the successful professional men of Norfolk, was born, reared and educated in South Carolina. His home was at Aiken, where he was born Dec. 24, 1890. His father, the late I. A. Givens, was a contractor and was the son of Susan Givens. Dr. Given's mother was, before her marriage, Miss Willie Gilmartin of Columbia.

Young Givens laid the foundation of his education in the Aiken public schools. When ready for college, he matriculated at Claflin University, Orangeburg, where he pursued the normal course. Having learned the brick mason's trade he used that to help himself through the University and through his medical course as well. He finished his course at Claflin in 1907 and, after working one year, entered Meharry Medical College at Nashville. Even then he was only eighteen. He finished his medical course and won his M. D. degree in 1912, then only twenty-two years of age. He came to Norfolk in the same year and began the general practice. Perhaps no other man of his age in the city has a more substantial practice.

Three years after entering upon the practice, he was married to Miss Alma Wells of Nashville. That was on May 12, 1915. They have (1920) one daughter, Alma Wells Givens. Mrs. Givens was educated at Spellman Seminary and at Howard University.

Dr. Givens is very fond of music and is himself a skilful violinist. As a boy, he liked drawing and wanted to be an architect. His mother, who has always been ambitious for him inducted him to become a physician instead, and his success would seem to indicate that she made no mistake.

Dr. Givens has entered heartily into the professional and social life of Norfolk. He is identified with the Old Domin-



ion, the National and the Tidewater Medical organizations and is also a member of the Physicians' Club of Norfolk as well as the Acme Social Club and the Assembly. In politics he is a Republican. He is a member of the M. E. Church. Among the secret orders he is identified with the Pythians. He is Medical Examiner for the International Longshoremen's Association. He is also a Director in Brown's Savings Bank and Vice Pres. of the Union Commercial Bank of Norfolk.

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## ROGER JEFFERSON KYLES

The modern banker must know many things. He must know finances and the rules which govern in the financial world, he must have a knowledge of commercial law, he must be a judge of values, and above all he must understand human nature and know how to deal with folks. Such qualities are all the more necessary in the cashier of a new bank like the Community Savings Bank of Portsmouth.

The efficient cashier of this institution is Mr. Roger Jefferson Kyles. Mr. Kyles is a native of the Capital City of the Old Dominion, having been born at Richmond on Sept. 8, 1875. His parents were Jordan and Susan Kyles.

As a boy young Kyles attended the Richmond public and high schools, where he made for himself an excellent record. Even as a boy he was energetic and enterprising. He sold newspapers or did whatever general work offered an opportunity to help along to better things. Fortunately for him the home influences were good and his parents were ambitious for him. He took a business course at Richmond. At the age of sixteen he became Secretary to the late Wm. W. Browne the founder of the True Reformers and remained in that position till the death of Dr. Browne in 1897. After that he worked with his successor till 1904. In that year, he secured an appointment as stenographer in Portsmouth Navy Yard where he remained till 1920. When the Community Savings Bank was organized in 1920, he was one of its promoters. His equipment and

business experience pointed to him as the logical man for cashier of the institution, to which position he was unanimously elected. The manner in which the business of the bank has been conducted shows that they made no mistake.

Mr. Kyles' other business connections include a directorship in the Portsmouth Co-operative and Investment Co. and the Treasurer of the Star Mercantile Co.

During the war Mr. Kyles was still at the navy yard and took an active interest not only in the larger public measures which were kept before the people in various drives and campaigns but was especially active in matters relating to those of his own race employment by the government.

He is of the opinion that the progress of the race depends upon the development of Christian character. He is a member of the Baptist Church and Supt. of the S. S.

On June 3, 1903, Mr. Kyles was married to Miss Gertrude Bolling of Richmond. They have five children, Roger, Wendell, Gertrude, Blanche and Harold Kyles.

In politics Mr. Kyles is a Republican and belongs to the Masons and Pythians. While he necessarily keeps up with the current news and business literature, his favorite reading is history.

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## WILLIAM JAMES PETTIS

One of the most successful young professional men of Richmond is Dr. William James Pettis, who in recent years has built up a lucrative dental practice. He is a native of the old town of Farmville, Va., where he was born July 25, 1885. His parents, who are both living (1921) are Willis and Mary Pettis. The family moved to New York at an early date, so that young Pettis had the advantage of the public and high schools of New York. Later, he entered Hampton Institute where he remained for three years and while there learned carpentry. For his literary work, he went to Petersburg Normal, completing the course there in 1907.

Having learned his trade at Hampton, he used it as a



**WILLIAM JAMES PETTIS**

means of helping himself through his normal course and later through the dental department of Howard University. This course was completed, with the D. D. S. degree, in 1915. While in college, he was an enthusiastic ball player and was popular as a student.

Following his graduation in 1915, Dr. Pettis located in Richmond and has built up a good practice. In politics he is a Republican. He belongs to the Odd Fellows and is a member of the A. M. E. Zion Church. He is a trustee and treasurer of his local church. He is also identified with various professional organizations, including the Richmond Medical Society, the Old Dominion State Dental Association, the Inter-State Dental Association and the National Medical Society.

On March 27, 1917, Dr. Pettis was married to Miss Blanche Lutterloh of Wilmington, N. C. Like her husband, Mrs. Pettis was educated at Howard University. They have an attractive home in Richmond.

Dr. Pettis is of the opinion that the thing most needed by the race is development along business and economic lines. He is already, in addition to his professional work, Vice President of The Commercial Bank & Trust Co. of Richmond.

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## MAURICE LOVESTER GORDON

The man, who, from choice or from Divine appointment and direction, finds himself and finds his work early in life has a tremendous advantage over the man who wastes his youth or who merely drifts till some great crisis in life brings him face to face with its issues. The former brings to bear on his work all the vivid imagination of boyhood and the splendid enthusiasm of youth while the latter must often begin his preparation late in life or meet its responsibilities without adequate preparation.

To the former class belongs Rev. Maurice Lovester Gordon, pastor of the Mt. Zion Baptist Church of Staunton.

He was born in Arrington, Nelson County, May 18, 1891. His parents were John and Luvinia Gordon. His father's mother was Elizabeth Gordon. Young Gordon grew up on the Nelson County farm and went to the public schools. He had the advantage of being brought up in a Christian home and considers that the most potent factor in shaping his life. At the early age of nine he gave his heart to God and from that time felt that he must preach the Gospel. He actually began preaching at fourteen and was licensed in 1909. He was ordained by the Hill Street Baptist Church of Roanoke in 1914, having moved to that city in 1906.

When ready for college, Mr. Gordon went to the Virginia Theological Seminary and College at Lynchburg for both his academic and theological work. He has from that institution the B. D. degree. During the summer vacations he worked as a helper with his brother who was a plasterer and had soon picked up the trade. After that such was the character of his work that he was in demand and was never without a job. His first pastorate began in 1914 at Jerusalem Baptist Church, Roanoke, which he served four years with marked success. The church property was improved, the debt paid and the membership increased. In Nov., 1918, he came to the Mt. Zion Church at Staunton. Here he found a heavy debt of more than six thousand dollars. His second anniversary saw the church free from all debt. Every department of the work has gone forward under his administration. He has the best colored church plant in the city of Staunton and a membership of about eleven hundred.

Mr. Gordon is a Mason and a Republican. He is of a philosophic turn of mind and next after the Bible and theological reading is very fond of the law. He is of the opinion that the thing which would contribute most to the progress and development of the race would be a "fair and impartial press."

On Dec. 30, 1914, Dr. Gordon was married to Miss Lucy A. Bank of Roanoke. Mrs. Gordon was educated at the

Petersburg Normal and was before her marriage a teacher. They have two children, Maurice L., Jr., and Edna Luvinia Gordon.

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## HENRY PAGE WEEDEN

An interesting feature of our colored professional men is the swift success which comes to so many of them. Certainly some of them drop into a virgin field while others have to meet competition. Then to some extent a steadily rising race consciousness is helpful to these young professional men as their own people are beginning to rally to them, but more than all else it seems that the intense earnestness which they put into their work, and their justifiable pride in doing good work accounts for their unusually rapid success.

Henry Page Weeden, D. D. S., of Lynchburg, Va., has in less than six years built up a dental practice which taxes his time and strength to the limit. He maintains an attractive parlor and operating room on Fifth Street and being the only resident colored dentist, his most acute problem now is how to handle all the work which is offered.

Dr. Weeden was born in Hampton, Va., September 8, 1889. His parents were Henry Page and Mary E. Weeden. Henry Page Weeden, the elder, was a Baptist minister, son of Corbin and Critty Weeden. His wife, Mary E. Weeden, was the daughter of Alexander and Susan Ash.

Young Weeden attended the Whittier Training School in Hampton, then went to Hampton Institute where he completed the normal course. Later on, having decided on a career, he entered the dental department of Howard University, Washington, D. C., from which he was graduated in 1914 with the degree of D. D. S.

Like so many other successful men he has had to work his own way through the schools which he did by working on railroads, steamboats, domestic service, hotel work in the Bahama Island and served as clerk in the Census Bureau for the 1910 census.

**HENRY PAGE WEEDEN**

In April, 1915, he established himself in Lynchburg, and his success has already been mentioned.

He is literally a man of one work which keeps him very busy and when he can spare a little time his preferred reading is biography.

He is a member of the Baptist Church and an inactive Republican. Other than these he has no outside affiliations. During the war Dr. Weeden contributed his service in a local way.

August 15, 1915, Dr. Weeden married Lula P. Lowe, daughter of William Lowe, who was educated at Hampton and taught in the Norfolk High School prior to her marriage.

They have two children, Lula Lowe, and Iola Marietta Weeden.

Dr. Weeden is a member of the Old Dominion Dental Association, the Interstate Dental Association, and the National Medical Association, having served in the last mentioned as Secretary of the dental section.

He considers "Better Public Schools" as the key to the future advancement of the race.

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## FEDERAL AUGUSTUS BROWN

Most men who come up to maturity without having trained themselves for a profession or without having entered upon any particular calling, conclude that it is too late to make a change and settle down, content to make a mere living.

Occasionally one finds a man, however, who gets a vision of some great task and recognizes in it his opportunity. Such a man is more concerned about the life than he is about a living.

Our subject, Rev. Federal Augustus Brown, pastor of the Ebenezer Baptist Church of Charlottesville, belongs to the latter class.

He was born at the old town of Smithfield, April 17, 1876. His father, Rev. James A. Brown, was also a minister of

**FEDERAL AUGUSTUS BROWN**

the Gospel. His mother, before her marriage, was Miss Fannie Hill, a daughter of Stafford and Caroline Hill.

As a boy and young man, Mr. Brown gave little attention to education. He engaged in such as offered till he was grown to manhood. When he was about twenty-three years of age he was happily converted and joined the Hill Street Baptist Church at Smithfield.

The following year he was called to preach. Feeling the need of better preparation he entered the T. I. and C. I. of Claremont. He passed from there to Virginia Union University where he finished his course. Prior to this he had been licensed and ordained to the full work of the ministry.

His first regular pastorate was the Rising Star Baptist Church at Smithfield, which he served six years. A new house of worship was erected and the membership grew from nine to ninety-three. After that the First Church at Waverly was served for three years and paid out of debt, Second Church at Newport News one year, Shiloh, Ashland, six year, and Mt. Olive, Richmond, five years. From Richmond he was called to his present work in 1919. Under his administration the church debt has been paid and one hundred and thirty-four new members added to the roll.

Before going to Richmond, Dr. Brown organized the Rockyhock Sunday School Convention and was its first president. He has had a fruitful ministry and has brought into the church nearly three thousand members.

On Jan. 12, 1915, Dr. Brown was united in matrimony to Miss Cornelia Banks, a daughter of Henry and Mary Banks of Chesterfield County. She was educated at Howard and was, before her marriage a teacher.

Dr. Brown is a Republican in politics. He belongs to the Masons and the Elks. He is president of the local ministers' conference and is a member of the Foreign Mission Board of the General Association of Virginia.

He is in demand for evangelistic work at which he has been unusually successful.

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## **WILLIAM ROY MAPP**

Dr. William Roy Mapp, who, for nearly twenty years, has been engaged in the active practice is a native of the Eastern Shore, having been born at the historic old town of Eastville on May 6, 1872. His parents were Thomas and Ada Mapp. His maternal grandparents were Letherby and Tabitha Wilkins.

Dr. Mapp has been a hard worker all his life. He grew up on the farm and as a boy attended the local public school where he laid the foundation of his education. He was an apt pupil and made good progress. He attracted the attention of his teacher, Prof. J. C. L. Bain, who encouraged him to pursue his education. When through the public schools he went to the Hampton Institute, where he took the normal course. When ready for his medical course, he matriculated at Leonard Medical College, Raleigh, from which he was graduated with the M. D. degree in 1896.

Dr. Mapp taught school for several years, he taught in his native county for five years and in James City County for one year. Had he chosen to pursue the teaching profession, there is no doubt but that, with his equipment, he would have made a place for himself among the educators of the State.

In the fall of 1903 he moved to Berkley and began the practice of medicine. He has since resided there and built up a successful practice.

On Jan. 27, 1901, he was married to Miss Mittie A. McIntyre of Raleigh, N. C., who was educated at Shaw University. They have three children, Gladys, Jessie, and James F. W. Mapp.

Dr. Mapp is a member of the A. M. E. Church, in which he is a trustee. He belongs to the Elks and Buffaloes. Though a Republican, he has not been active in politics. He is identified with the Old Dominion, the Tidewater and the National Medical Societies. He is also a director in the Progressive Drug Store and of the Berkley Mutual Savings & Loan Asso.

He is of the opinion that the first great need of the race is education, and after that the development of the agricultural and industrial interests.

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## AGNES CARVER JONES

The story of Mrs. Agnes Carver Jones of Falls Church, Va., is a story of hard work and of many struggles, but also a story of usefulness and of success.

Mrs. Jones, whose maiden name was Agnes Gilbert, was born at Centerville, Va., Dec. 3, 1870. Her father, William Gilbert, was a farmer. He was a son of James Gilbert. The mother of Mrs. Jones was, before her marriage, Jennie Mellon, a daughter of John Mellon. There is a strain of Indian blood on the mother's side. Mrs. Jones lost her father when she was only three years of age. Almost from infancy she has known the meaning of work and in her career has had to meet enough difficulties to overcome and defeat a less courageous soul. Fortunately, at an early age, she, like Mary of old chose that good part which could not be taken away from her and through all the years has rejoiced in the comfort and support of her religion.

She began her schooling at the Centerville public school, but this was interrupted by the necessity of going to work. When she was only eight years of age she was put out for her board and clothes with the understanding that she was to be sent to school. Thus early in life she learned to rely on her own efforts to make her way. After three years she was given two dollars a month and later advanced to five or six dollars per month, which in this day of high wages sounds ridiculously low. Then came a great change. She was taken to Washington, D. C. Here it dawned on the girl how little she really knew. She did not allow this to discourage her, however, but went bravely to work to overcome her lack of education. She says she made up her mind to be second to none, but found it easier to set herself the task than to accomplish it. However, she lost no time but secured a job at general house work and went

AGNES CARVER JONES AND SON, RAYMOND

to school at night. Her mother, now an invalid, was a heavy tax on her strength and on her resources, but she never flinched. She went to school when she could but attended her mother with loving care when she required it. She had at that time two things in mind. One was to become "a first class cook, the other was to be a first class Christian woman." She was converted and joined the Beulah Baptist Church in 1888 and has since been active in Christian work and one of the mainstays of her church.

Mrs. Jones has been twice married. The first marriage was to Robert Carver in 1895. The second marriage was Oct. 20, 1919, to E. J. Jones. By the first marriage there were three children, all of whom have passed away. The last surviving child, Raymond, was a son, a splendid young man, well equipped and educated for the work of life. He had grown to manhood and had reached the place where he could be of great comfort to his mother. After the outbreak of the world war he went into training, but sickened and died before he saw active service.

Mrs. Jones early conceived the idea of a training school for girls and in this way has been the means of helping many girls to better their condition in life.

As the years went by she began purchasing property at the low rate of a dollar per week. She is now regarded as one of the substantial business women of the race.

Mrs. Jones was a pioneer in another important matter. That was in her protest against the injustice of the jim crow car. As a result she was imprisoned, but she made a brave fight, winning a victory for herself and for her race in 1911. In politics she holds to the Republican party.

She has been a leader in all forms of uplift work and is president of the community service club. She is identified with the Household of Ruth and is a captain in the N. A. A. C. P., being a charter member of that great order.

She believes the best interests of the race are to be promoted by temperance, education and the cultivation of race pride.

Mrs. Jones, though beginning life in humble circumstances has succeeded herself and has pointed the way to success for others.

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## OSCAR WILLIAM MARSHALL

The success of the Negro dentist has demonstrated the ability of the individual Negro to make good on his own initiative, and it has also shown that the race will co-operate with and support a business or a profession, provided that business or profession renders efficient service.

One of the most successful dentists of the Valley of Virginia is Dr. Oscar William Marshall of the beautiful little city of Staunton. It is interesting to note that Dr. Marshall has built up and maintained his successful practice in his home town. He was born at Staunton April 15, 1882. His parents were Pleasant and Roberta Marshall. His mother's maiden name was Clark.

Our subject grew up on the farm near Staunton and when of school age, attended the local public school. He went to Howard University for his academic work and after completing that in 1906, entered upon the dental course, which he completed in 1909 with the D. D. S. degree. As a youth he had done a lot of general work about Staunton. After going to Howard, he supported himself by hotel and Pullman work. The latter gave him an opportunity to see much of the country and proved in itself a valuable experience as well as a means to a larger end. On completion of his course in 1909, Dr. Marshall returned to Staunton and began the practice. He maintains an attractive place on Main Street.

After he was established in the practice he was married on Sept. 25, 1912, to Miss Nina Brown of Charles City. Mrs. Marshall was educated at Petersburg and was, before her marriage an accomplished teacher.

Dr. Marshall is a member of the Baptist Church. He belongs to the Old Dominion Medical and Dental Association

and to the Inter-State Dental Society. He believes that the greatest single need of the race can be summed up in the one word, education. His home and investments are in Staunton.

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## CHARLES ALEXANDER WARD

Rev. Charles Alexander Ward, D. D., pastor of the Carver Memorial Presbyterian Church of Newport News, comes from the hill country of the Old North State.

He was born at Lincolnton, N. C., June 26, 1879. His father, Thomas P. Ward, was a carpenter and a farmer, and was the son of Edward and Maria Ward. The mother of our subject was Sarah Ward.

Young Ward early evinced that intellectual capacity which has characterized all his life work whether as a teacher or preacher.

He went to the Lincolnton public schools, where he made a good record as a student.

At an early age, he identified himself with the Presbyterian Church and turned toward the ministry as his life work. After this decision had been made, came the need of better preparation for so important a task. Accordingly he matriculated at Biddle University, Charlotte, N. C., and won his bachelor's degree in 1902. This was followed by the theological course, leading to the S. T. B. degree in 1905.

He was helped in his college course by the winning of a scholarship. He supplemented this by work in the printing department, so that he was able to complete both courses without a break.

Fortunately the home environment of Mr. Ward's early days was such as to turn his mind in the right direction and he considers that the most potent factor in the shaping of his career.

Next after that he was perhaps most helped and encouraged by the Rev. D. S. Baker, pastor of the old Presbyterian Church of Lincolnton. During vacation, before en-

**CHARLES ALEXANDER WARD**

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tering middle theological year, he served Presbyterian Mission, Quogue, N. Y. After his graduation he entered upon his work at Abbeville, S. C., where he preached for three years, at the same time teaching in Harbison College then situated at Abbeville. From Abbeville he went to Columbus, Ga., for a few months and from there to Augusta, Ga., in the capacity of Chaplain and teacher at Haines Normal and Industrial Institute, remaining six months. From Augusta Dr. Ward went to Winston-Salem, N. C., and while pastoring the Presbyterian Church there also taught in the well known Slater Normal School. At the end of three years, he went to Winnsboro, S. C., where he preached one year and taught the parochial school. His next pastorate was at Maxton, N. C. He served the church at that place and two churches in the country for two years and then went to Newberry, S. C., for two years. While serving the Newberry Church he was principal of the Hoge graded school. He built new houses of worship at Abbeville and at Winston-Salem. In 1915 he accepted the call of the Carver Memorial Church at Newport News which has prospered under his administration.

Both as a teacher and as a preacher, he has sought to deal with his people intelligently. He believes that religion and education should be so related that the work of the scholar shall be Christian and the work of the Christian intelligent.

Out of his experiences in various parts of the South, he has come to the conclusion that the greatest single need of the race is Christian education.

Dr. Ward has been twice married. On June 29, 1910, he was married to Miss Jennie W. Scott of Cheraw, S. C. She bore him one child, Elexine Ward. Mrs. Ward passed away in 1912. Subsequent to her death, on June 28th, 1916, he was married to Miss Mattie L. Snowden of Newberry, S. C. She was educated at Scotia Seminary, Concord, N. C. They have two children, Lucia and Charles G. Ward.

Dr. Ward is a well informed man, keeping abreast of the



times through the current newspapers and magazines. After the Bible, his more serious reading runs to biography and history.

Dr. Ward is a Pythian and in politics is a Republican. During the war he took an active part in the various drives and campaigns. His property interests are at Newport News. He has attended one General Assembly of his church.

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## SOUTHALL BASS

Dr. Southall Bass, who conducts a prosperous drug business at 1248 Church Street, Norfolk, is a native of Portsmouth, where he was born August 25, 1874. His parents were Southall and Mary (Elliot) Bass. His paternal grandparents were William and Jammima Bass and on the mother's side the grandparents were Joe S. and Mary Elliott. There is a strain of Indian blood coming down from both sides.

Young Bass attended the Portsmouth Public School and passed from there to the Norfolk High School, where he did his preparatory work. He was an energetic youth and worked hard for the money with which to pay his school expenses. He learned the barber's trade and worked in a barber shop for quite a while and during spare time learned pharmacy. When ready for the regular course, he matriculated at Leonard School of Pharmacy at Raleigh, where he graduated with the Ph. G. degree in 1902. After that, he was employed as a pharmacist till 1910, when he went into business at Portsmouth for himself. Later, he moved to the Norfolk side, where he opened the Bass Drug Store on Church Street. He resides in Norfolk.

Dr. Bass conducts an up-to-date place and has built up an attractive trade which is steadily growing with the years.

On December 19, 1907, he was married to Miss Ruth N. Smith, a daughter of Edward and Jennie Smith, of Columbia, S. C. Mrs. Bass was educated at Benedict College and

was before her marriage an accomplished teacher. They have three children, Mary H., Ruth L., and Southall Bass, Jr.

Dr. Bass is an active member of the A. M. E. Church and is also a member of the Skull and Bones Club of Portsmouth. He is also a member of the Norfolk Aolian Club and was at one time organist of his church.

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## BEVERLY JOSEPH BOLDING

Rev. Beverly Joseph Bolding, A. M., D. D., LL.D., who for more than thirty years has been a successful and prominent worker in the A. M. E. Zion connection, is a native of the historic old town of Alexandria, Va., where he was born less than a year after the close of the war, on Feb. 7, 1866. His parents were Samuel and Lucy Bolding. The paternal grandparents were Joseph Carter and Sallie Carter, a famous cook. The maternal grandfather was Prince Mey Hoodie, a Zulu African chief.

As a boy young Bolding attended the Alexandria public and high schools, from which he passed to Howard University. He completed his college course, however, at Temple College in 1888, from which he has the A. M. degree. He did his theological work at the Episcopal Divinity School, completing that course in 1892. The D. D. degree was conferred on him by both Barrett Institute and Union College. He was materially assisted through college by Mr. W. A. Patton, President New York, Philadelphia and Norfolk R. R. Co.

Dr. Bolding was converted when a young man and feeling called to preach soon after was licensed and later joined the Conference.

His first appointment included Union and Metropolitan at Philadelphia, Pa., which he served for some time. He went from there to Media at Chambersburg, Pa. His next appointment was to Wilmington, Del., and he went from there to Baltimore. His next station was John Wesley, Washington, D. C. He was pastor at Franklin, Va., Oak Street Sta-



tion, Petersburg, and St. Thomas Station, Berkely. He was presiding elder of the Petersburg District and went from that work to the Salisbury District of the Baltimore and Washington Conference. He was editor of the *Varick Endeavourer* for four years.

Dr. Bolding is a man of extensive knowledge, having traveled widely not only in this country but abroad as well. In his reading he puts the Bible first. After that he has a fondness for biography, the works of John Wesley and *Pilgrim's Progress*.

On Dec. 24, 1890, Dr. Bolding married Miss Ella A. Drummond, daughter of John and Mary Drummond. Of the eleven children born to them only two survive. They are Melcenia Celesta and Maud E. Bolding.

Dr. Bolding is an Independent in politics, and while residing in Baltimore was a magistrate. Among the secret and benevolent orders he is identified with the Masons, Pythians, Elks, Mosaic Templars, Pilgrims, St. John Watchmen, Bronchoes, and the Citizens' Club of Philadelphia.

Dr. Bolding is of the opinion that the progress of the race may be promoted "by being independent in politics, clean in life and paying your debts."

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## McNOAH BLUE CRALLE

The greatest wealth of any community or race is to be found, not in its banks or business houses, nor yet in its farms or mines, but in the number and character of its leaders, social, educational, and religious. Fortunate is that community which can train its own young men and, after proper training, make them its leaders. These local leaders preserve the best traditions of the past and bring to bear on their work an intimate knowledge of native traits and character impossible to the outsider.

Prof. McNoah Blue Cralle of Kenbridge is one of these local leaders who has done his best work in his native county of Lunenburg, where he was born on Aug. 9, 1869. His father, Alfred L. Cralle, was a carpenter; his mother was

McNOAH BLUE CRALLE

Martha A. Cralle. Her mother was sold into Georgia when Martha was an infant, and for more than fifty years no word passed between mother and daughter. Then in a very strange way a letter of inquiry located the mother in Washington, D. C., and visits were speedily exchanged. It was found on meeting that there was a remarkable resemblance between Martha Cralle and her mother.

Growing up on the Lunenburg County farm young Cralle laid the foundation of his education in the Trinity Parochial School, from which he passed to Hampton Institute for his normal course. Later he attended for short periods the National Training School at Durham, N. C.

On Oct. 26, 1913, Prof. Cralle was happily married to Miss Alice Clyde Whittle, a daughter of Prof. Henry and Nora Whittle of Mecklenburg County. Mrs. Cralle, like her husband, was educated at Hampton. They have two children, Wilfred M. and Theron C. Cralle.

Beginning in his home county in 1893, Prof. Cralle has taught in the public, mission and graded schools for nearly thirty years. He has had the pleasure of seeing many of his students grow up and become the heads of families and in many cases has taught the second generation.

He was President of the Lunenburg County Teachers' Association from 1894 to 1918, when he resigned. He also resigned in 1918 the presidency of the Harmony S. S. Convention after a term of eighteen years. He was County Supervisor of Schools for four years and has frequently taught in the summer normals. He is now (1921) principal of the Kenbridge graded school which he has taught for five years at different times.

Prof. Cralle is active in all organizations and movements which have for their object the betterment of conditions among his people. He is assistant cashier of the Peoples Bank of Kenbridge with which he has been identified since its organization, and is also Notary Public. He is a member of the Baptist Church and was for a number of years clerk of the Harmony association. His acquaintance with the people of his county and the counties immediately adjacent,

is responsible for the organization of a stock company's store at Kenbridge, founded upon principles of co-operation. He was the first to conceive the idea and labored zealously to aid it in materializing. For thirty-five years he has been a teacher in the Sunday School. In politics Prof. Cralle is a Republican and is on both the county and congressional district committees, being chairman of the former. Among the secret orders he belongs to the Masons, St. Lukes, True Reformers, and the Royal Knights of King David.

He believes that whatever will induce the Negroes to pay their poll taxes and apply to the registrars for reinstatement as citizens will do them the greatest service.

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## CHESTER ARTHUR EATON

The Old North State has always been liberal in its contribution of good citizens to other states. Historians of that time tell us that from 1780 to 1820 the old State sent out 400,000 of its children to help populate newer sections, the majority of these settling in Georgia, Alabama and Mississippi. Now, an hundred years later, there is setting in a new tide. It cannot be denied that the Negro race has made more progress in North Carolina than in other sections of the South, and many of the enterprising members of the race are moving into other states, even the Old Dominion, which has been a very nursery of emigration, now getting its share of these North Carolinians. One of these acquisitions, who is proving a valuable asset in his adopted home is Chester Arthur Eaton, M. D., of Newport News, Va.

Dr. Eaton was born at Williamsboro, Vance Co., N. C., Sept. 18, 1882, son of Harry B. and Mary A. Eaton. His father was a farmer. His paternal grandparents were Thomas and Annie Eaton.

The family was a large one, twelve children, and though the parents were zealous in the matter of educating the children, it was impossible to do all they wanted, and so as they grew older, the younger children had to fight their own battles in an educational way.

**CHESTER ARTHUR EATON**



Young Chester remained on the farm until past eighteen, getting the little that the local public country schools could give. Then he entered Henderson Normal and Industrial College, Henderson, N. C., and graduated in 1905. While in school he was a working student, that is he worked out a part of his expenses, which served more as an inspiration than a drawback. During his vacations he worked at a great variety of jobs, the list of those he can remember is rather formidable, including railroad, steamboat, farm, coal mine, steel mill, brickyard, wood cutter, saw mill, waiter, porter, etc.

Having decided to become a physician he entered Leonard Medical College of Shaw University, Raleigh, N. C., and was graduated with his degree of M. D. in 1910. He located first at Lumberton, N. C., in 1910 and then moved to Fayetteville, N. C., but by 1913, his mind was made up to move to a larger field and he settled in Newport News, Va.

His success was remarkable. He must have had not only good medical attainments but strong personal qualities to achieve the success he did in five years.

His practice is large and profitable. He is developing in a modest way a Sanitarium, and as he is still quite a young man will doubtless build up a large institution. He has done graduate work at the Freedmen's Hospital, Washington, D. C., in connection with Howard University. He is familiar with the eastern coast of our country, but has not had leisure for further travel.

Outside of the Bible and his medical journals, his preferred reading has been the lives of great Negro men. While in school he was quite partial to athletics but like most busy doctors can now give but little time to play. Politically a Republican, religiously a Baptist, he is also quite a fraternalist, holding membership in the Masons, Odd Fellows, Knights of Pythias and several other orders.

Dr. Eaton is affiliated with the Old Dominion and Tidewater Medical Societies.

Five years ago Dr. Eaton wrote a book entitled "An

Ounce of Prevention," the first edition of this having been exhausted he will shortly publish the second edition in an enlarged and revised form.

On June 5, 1912, Dr. Eaton married Miss Estelle A. Jones, daughter of William and Hester Jones of Clarkton, N. C. Of his marriage there are three children, Lucile, Hazel, and Herbert Eaton.

The doctor has strong convictions—one of these born of his own experience is that if a young man has ambition and a determined will, then a lack of finances is no hindrance in getting an education and attaining a creditable and independent station in life.

Another conviction founded on careful observation is that the key to further progress of the American Negro lies in education, economy and organization.

Dr. Eaton's various activities show him to be a typical public spirited physician. The Medical profession is second only to the sacred ministry in the good it does and is second to no body of men in the world in attainments and progressive spirit.

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## WILLIAM FRANKLIN DENNY

One of the notable marks of progress in the race observed in recent years is the number and the type of young men who have been attracted to the so-called learned professions. Particularly in the law and in medicine the equipment has perforce been of a high order for the reason that they who would enter the professions must pass the same boards and be subjected to the same tests as the white lawyers and doctors. That colored lawyers have been able to go into courts officered throughout by white men and build up remunerative practice, and in some instances attract a white clientele, is certainly not due to favoritism. It must be due to energy, capacity, and attention to business.

Not a few of the successful lawyers have "come up through many tribulations" to their present success. This

**WILLIAM FRANKLIN DENNY AND FAMILY**

is true of William Franklin Denny of Richmond. It is a far cry from a Georgia cotton patch to an established place at the bar in the capital city of the Old Dominion. The intervening years have been years of struggle, of hard work and of accomplishment.

Mr. Denny was born in Jefferson Co., Ga., on June 20, 1877. His parents were Joseph and Mary Denny. His maternal grandparents were Jere and Mary Braswell. Growing up on the farm young Denny attended the local short term schools. At twelve he moved to Davisboro and attended school there for three years. Even at this early age he had become ambitious for an education. He matriculated at Atlanta University, where he pursued the normal course. The first year, he was assistant cook, which meant that he had to do the drudgery of the kitchen. For the next two years he was fireman and tended the heating plant at night for the privilege of going to school in the day. The summer months were spent in Georgia, one summer he worked in a blacksmith shop, two summers were spent at the barber's chair and another in hotel work in Atlanta. He taught school one term at Tennille, Ga., one at Davisboro, and one at Ochopee. He went to Talladega College, Talladega, Ala., for his college work and while there made his expenses by work in the shops. One year was spent in Chicago, where he took a commercial course, specializing in real estate. He entered the Pullman service and was on the road for four years at various times. This took him to every part of the States and into Canada and Mexico as well.

On Feb. 18, 1896, Mr. Denny was married to Miss Susie Gonder of Tennille. She was educated at the Schofield School at Aiken, S. C., and was, before her marriage, a teacher. They have a fine family of four children, John W., Regis V., Irma B., and Ruth M. Denny.

In 1900, Mr. Denny become interested in insurance work and was one of the organizers and first president of the Virginia Endowment Asso., a pioneer insurance order. He remained at the head of the order till 1905 when it was

sold to the Richmond Beneficial Asso. of which he was General Supt. one year. After that he organized the Peoples Real Estate and Investment Co., of which he was Secretary and Manager. In the meantime he had taken a correspondence course in law and in 1910 was admitted to the bar. He began the practice in W. Va. After his admission to the bar he went to Howard University for two years and won the LL. B. degree. Even while reading law at that institution he was practicing in the District of Columbia. For two years he was attorney for the New Rivers Colliers Coal Co. and for one year City Atty. at Lester W. Va. He is Pres. of the Hawkins Chemical Co. of Richmond.

In 1919 he opened offices in Richmond, where he has already built up a good practice. He has handled some notable cases and no other Negro lawyer in Virginia is more in demand for the criminal practice than Mr. Denny.

Mr. Denny is a member of the A. M. E. Church, in which he is a steward and a trustee. Among the secret orders he is identified with the Masons, the Pythians, True Reformers, St. Lukes, Good Samaritans, Elks and other local clubs and societies. His favorite reading is history.

Mr. Denny believes that the next step in the progress of the race must be along business lines.

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## NICHOLAS DASHIELL KING

Rev. Nicholas Dashiell King, D. D., pastor of the Metropolitan A. M. E. Zion Station at Norfolk, is one of the bright lights of the Zion connection in the Old Dominion. He is a native of the sister State of Maryland, having been born at Princess Anne, March 27, 1873. Although still comparatively a young man, Dr. King has back of him a record of which a veteran might well be proud. His father, Rev. Samuel E. King, was also a minister. His mother, before her marriage, was Miss Rosa A. Newman.

Rev. King's boyhood was divided between the farm and waiting around the place. He went to the local public



school at Princess Anne and passed from there to the Delaware Conference Academy, from which he went to the eastern branch of Morgan College. The untimely death of his father made it necessary for him to leave college prior to his graduation.

Dr. King was converted when a mere boy and called to the work of the ministry when only eighteen years of age. He joined the Conference at Wilmington, N. C., in 1895, under Bishop C. R. Harris. That year he was ordained Deacon and the following year was ordained Elder by Bishop Wilson.

His first appointment was to LaGrange, N. C., which he served for one year and while there remodeled Moore Temple and built Miller's Chapel at a cost of \$2,500.00. From LaGrange he went to Lumberton the following year, and built Macedonia Church, at a cost of \$1,500.00. His next appointment was to Hookerton, N. C. He served this circuit for two years, built New Zion, repaired Mt. Zion, and also repaired Star of Zion at a cost of \$3,700.00. His record up to this time warranted his promotion to one of the best stations in the State. Accordingly, he was sent to Wilson, where he remained for six years, and while on that work put a metal ceiling and pews in the church at a cost of \$1,400.00. From Wilson he was sent to Washington, N. C., where he remained four years and bought a parsonage at a cost of \$1,500.00. His next appointment was Edenton, which held him four years. Here a mortgage of \$900.00 on the parsonage was canceled and pews and a pipe-organ were installed in the church at a cost of \$2,400.00. From Edenton he went to Elizabeth City for three years, where he found the work burdened with a heavy debt, the accrued interest on which alone amounted to \$1,400.00. This interest was raised and the interest payments kept up. At this time, the work at the Metropolitan Station at Norfolk was in a discouraging shape, to say the least. The membership had run down and a debt which, with past due interest, amounted to \$20,000.00, rested on the property. Under Dr. King's leadership the interest has been kept up

and the principal reduced to \$4,000.00, while a new parsonage has been purchased. He is now serving his fifth year at Norfolk.

Whether considered from the point of view of the popularity of his sermons, or the constructive character of his work, or the number of members added to the church, or the buildings and improvements made, Dr. King can be said to have had in every respect a fruitful ministry. Thousands of dollars worth of property have been brought into the connection through his tireless efforts in the churches which he has served. As a man, and as a leader he has won success. He has not swerved from his duty. Sometimes this has meant a serious change of plans, but he has followed where the Spirit has led and thus has become one of the most effective men of his denomination in Virginia.

Among the secret torders, he is identified with the Pythians, Odd Fellows, and Masons.

On March 16, 1898, he was happily married to Miss Mamie Lee Gay, a daughter of Samuel and Alice Gay. Of the eight children born to them, the following are living: Samuel N., Rosa Lee, James A., Irma A., and Thelma V. King.

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## DAVID THOMAS LYNN

Davis Thomas Lynn, a business man of Norfolk, was born at Morrisville, N. C., January 6, 1888. His mother's name was Geneva Lynn. She died when the boy was only two years of age, and he never knew his father. He was reared by his grandparents, Samuel and Hester Lynn.

On January 5, 1911, Mr. Lynn was married to Miss Pocohontas Smith, a daughter of Miles and Maggie Smith of Weeksville, N. C. She was educated at Roanoke Institute, Elizabeth City, N. C. They have two children, Hiawatha and Kharis Lynn.

Young Lynn attended the public and high schools at Morrisville and went from there to Franklin Christian College, at Franklinton, N. C., where he completed his course



DAVID THOMAS LYNN

in 1910. For nine years of age upward, it was necessary for him to support himself. During his boyhood and youth he would work during the summer and go to school during the winter. While at school he pursued the course in electricity and engineering and as an electrician and heating engineer has made for himself a name of which a much older man might well be proud.

At the outbreak of the war, he entered the military service under Major Black, Chief of Engineers of the War Department and was placed in the 48th Engineers, Company B, a white unit in which he was the only colored man. He went to France with the command where he saw hard service, as the original records, which he has, show.

After passing the necessary examination in electricity he was transferred to the headquarters of the 13th Grand Division, also white, and was the only race man in the Division, ranking as Sergeant, electrician and chief mechanic of that Division.

Returning to Norfolk after the close of the war, he resumed his work as electrician and heating engineer.

Mr. Lynn is prominent in the work of the A. M. E. Zion Church with which he has been identified since boyhood. He was converted at Morrisville in 1903 and since coming to Norfolk has united himself with the Metropolitan A. M. E. Zion Church, where he is secretary of the Board of Stewards and is a trustee and teacher in the senior class in the S. S. He is liberal in his support of the church, which he represented in the Virginia Conference of 1919. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Y. M. C. A., and is a trustee of the colored hospital. Both in peace and in war he has shown himself to be a good citizen and commands the respect and co-operation not only of the leaders of his race but of prominent business and professional men of the white race as well.

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# THOMAS ALEXANDER PURCELL

Rev. Thomas Alexander Purcell, D. D., of Portsmouth, like many other successful men, was of humble origin. In fact, he is a self-made man. His parents were slaves before Emancipation and the father, Lewis Purcell, who was a painter and builder, passed away while the boy was still young, leaving him to support and educate himself. Dr. Purcell's mother was Anness Purcell. She was a daughter of William and Violet Purcell, while Lewis Purcell, the father of our subject, was a son of Mark and Tenna Purcell. The Purcells lived at Maxton, N. C., and it was there that Thomas Alexander Purcell was born, September 18, 1879, and lived until young manhood.

He attended the local public school during the short term each year and spent the rest of his time working for his own and the family support. From the Maxton Academy he went to the State Normal at Fayetteville, and later passed to Shaw University.

He joined the A. M. E. Zion Church when he was about seventeen years of age and soon felt impelled to take up the work of the ministry and his first connection with the conference began at Fayetteville, N. C., in 1904, when he joined under the late Bishop Hood.

His first pastorate was in the home state of North Carolina. He began with the Dunn Circuit, which he served for four years and built one new church. He went from Dunn to Snow Hill, where he preached for three years. He was then transferred to Georgia and pastored Simpkins Chapel at Crawford for one year. Returning to North Carolina he served the Raleigh Circuit for the full quadrennium. He was in 1918 transferred to the important work at Bethel Station, Portsmouth, where the work has greatly prospered under his administration. A lot on which to erect a new house of worship has been secured and arrangements are being made for the erection of a splendid new house of worship at a cost of sixty thousand dollars.

In 1914, St. Simon's University conferred on him the degree of D. D. in recognition of his work as a religious leader.



At a very early age, he learned something of his father's trade and later became a painter and decorator, and sign writer. By these means he was able to help himself through school. Before entering the ministry he was superintendent of the International Clothing Company, a Negro institution at Southern Pines, N. C. In recent years, however, he has given himself entirely to religious work and is at this time (1920) in addition to his regular pastoral work, identified with the International-Interracial and Interdenominational Bible Society, of which he was one of the founders.

In politics he is a Republican and is a member of the State Executive Committee. Among the secret orders he is identified with the Masons and Pythians and O. F.

On May 30, 1914, Dr. Purcell was happily married to Miss Rhoda M. Mitchener, a daughter of Hildria and Oceania Mitchener. They have two children: Cornelius V. and Beulah L. Purcell.

While not devoting himself to money making, Dr. Purcell is a man of good business ability and owns a comfortable home and other property. He says: "Our race can best promote its interests by constant industry and the nation can best promote our interests by giving us equal justice before the courts."

Pr. Purcell has for a number of years been identified with the educational as well as the religious life of his people. He has been in demand on public occasions and for evangelistic work.

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## JAMES MADISON MASON

In the flourishing town of South Boston, away down in Southern Virginia, lives a young man in the active practice of medicine whose life experience as modestly told by himself furnishes a fine example for emulation.

This man, James Madison Mason, M. D., was born in Chatham Co., N. C., on Oct. 14, 1882. He is a son of Dred and Henrietta (Williams) Mason. His father was a



farmer and drayman. His grandparents were Brie and Dicie Mason, in the paternal line, and his maternal grandfather Mango Williams. These were all farming people.

As will be noted Dr. Mason is in his early prime, only thirty-eight years of age, and only nine years in the active practice of medicine, yet he is firmly established as a successful practitioner and is financially responsible.

In his boyhood he spent several terms in the public schools and was then sent by his parents to Hampton Institute as a work student, but the illness of his mother compelled his return home before completing a term. Some years later, being then twenty years of age and his father unable to pay for his schooling and asked the privilege of educating himself. This being granted he worked hard that summer, saved his money, and entered literary department of Shaw University at Raleigh in the fall. His money not holding out he was given a little job on the grounds and by that help held out. He spent five years in that department making a class each year. In 1905 he entered Leonard Medical School of Shaw University and was graduated in 1909 as a Doctor of Medicine. Leaving college he secured a position as Resident Physician at the Mercy Hospital in Philadelphia. While there he specialized chiefly in surgery and diseases of children.

In the spring of 1911, with a Virginia State Board license, forty dollars in money, and modest equipment of clothing, he located in South Boston.

His first move was to call on all the physicians, both white and colored and to establish friendly relations. Then he fitted up a little one room office, hung out his shingle and started practice. While waiting for patients, he kept only regular office hours, putting in the remainder of his time in a profitable and diplomatic way, but never hanging around public places, nor wasting time. Unvarying courtesy, patience, attention to business and diligence soon brought its reward, and in a short time he had built up a splendid practice.

Doctor Mason has established not only medical character

but has also proven himself a good business man in real estate and now owns property worth twelve thousand dollars or more, which for ten years' practice in a comparatively small town shows both good judgment and sound economy.

He has been twice married. First in January, 1912, to Miss Maud Akers, a daughter of Jack and Sarah Akers, South Boston. She died in 1915. His second marriage was on May 21, 1918, to Miss Edwina Wilson, a daughter of Joe and Laura Wilson of Keysville. He has one living child, Edna Mae Mason. Mrs. Mason was educated at St. Pauls School, Lawrenceville, and was, before her marriage, an accomplished teacher.

He attributes his success largely and chiefly to Christian training, which easily led up to self reliance, with square and prompt dealing in business.

A busy man he has not had time for wide reading but admits a fondness for "Longfellow Poems," and a partiality for the "Medical World," where he finds the business talks to doctors most helpful.

In fraternal circles he is a member of the Pythians and Masons, being Medical Examiner for the two orders. He is Treasurer of the order of Moses.

He is the founder and half owner of the Rex Cafe and a Director of the Piedmont Real Estate Company and Pres. of the Liberty Savings Bank of South Baston.

For the promotion of the best interestts of the race he can see nothing better than true education backed by the standard virtues of self reliance, economy and moral courage. His personal experience demonstrates the value of these things and he pins his faith to what he has proven to be true.

Dr. Mason has won a quick success notwithstanding a late start in getting his educational equipment and enjoys the respect of the community in which he has cast his lot. Dr. Mason is a member of the National Medical Association.

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## GEORGE ROBERT JONES

Among his contemporaries in the A. M. E. connection in Virginia, few, if any, have done more for the denomination than Rev. George Robert Jones, D. D., of Suffolk. He has been a faithful laborer in the Master's vineyard for more than a quarter of a century, twenty years of which were spent in the mountains of Virginia. Both as pastor and presiding elder he has "earnestly contended for the faith once for all delivered to the saints." As a speaker he is earnest, logical and forceful. He has never had to preach to empty pews. He is thoughtful, studious and energetic. As a disciplinarian he is strict and systematic, self-possessed and fearless.

Dr. Jones is a native of the old town of Farmville, where he was born Mar. 17, 1872. His parents were Robert and Sarah (Burton) Jones. In the absence of written records, he knows little of his earlier ancestors. His mother's uncle, James Bruce, with whom he lived for several years, moved to Lynchburg, and it was here in the public schools that he laid the foundation of his education. Speaking of this period, he says, "I was very fortunate in obtaining my elementary training, and a preparatory training with Lawyer Samuel P. Leftwich of Lynchburg as my tutor." He also attended Smith's Business College of Lynchburg, completing the course in 1897.

In 1886, when about fourteen years of age, the future preacher gave his heart to God. About the time he reached mature manhood, in 1893, he joined the A. M. E. conference at Smithfield under Bishop James A. Handy. Beginning with a mission appointment he forged ahead through circuit and station work to the district. His first pastorate was Taylor's Mission. After that he served Harris Creek Circuit, McDowell Circuit, Rocky Mount Station, Harmony Circuit, Lynchburg Station, South Richmond Station, and Carrollton Circuit. In 1909, he was promoted to district work in his conference and presided over the Staunton District three years, Roanoke District five years, and is now



(1921) in his third year on the Richmond District. He enjoys the distinction of being the only man in the conference who has served three districts in succession without, in the meantime, returning to the pastorate. Dr. Jones was one of the Secretaries of the Centennial General Conference at Philadelphia in 1916. His work has been crowned with success both in the pastorate and on the district.

In the last eleven years he has organized ten mission points in the conference and has supervised the building of five churches.

Dr. Jones takes no active part in politics. He belongs to the Masons and the Knights of Gideon and is Supreme Vice-Commander of the latter.

He is energetic and self reliant, and believes that the quality of perseverance, coupled with honesty and a strict attention to his own personal affairs, has been the greatest factor in his success.

Before entering the ministry he was engaged in newspaper and stenographic work and has traveled throughout the South and West.

On May 3, 1899, Dr. Jones was married to Miss Ora Clark, a daughter of James D. and Lucy Clark. Of the seven children born to them the following are living: Robert D., Harry W., George R., Rosa L., and Moses Jones. Both Robert and Harry are students in Kittrell College, N. C.

When asked how in his estimation the interests of the race may be promoted he said, "By co-operation in civic and social service uplift and better school facilities for all the races."

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## JAMES STERLING HATCHER

Among the rising men of the A. M. E. Church, the Rev. James Sterling Hatcher, now stationed at Roanoke, Va., is a prominent figure.

He is in his early prime, born near Selma, Ala., June 16, 1885, son of Rev. C. G. and Julia A. Hatcher. Both his par-



ents are living, his father is in active work as a Presiding Elder of the A. M. E. Church.

His paternal grandparents were Jordan and Ellen Hatcher. Jordan Hatcher was a teacher and in Reconstruction days was Postmaster at Cahaba, Ala.

Young Hatcher's early school training was "miscellaneous." Wherever his father was set down by the conference, there the boy attended public schools, and as he grew older, he attended the State Normal School at Montgomery, Ala., for the normal course. His college training was received from Wilberforce University, Xenia, Ohio. He attended the Payne Theological Seminary at the same place and was graduated in 1911 with the degree of B. D.

Converted at twelve years of age, young Hatcher had always felt that his life work must be preaching.

He admits that even the animals were sure of a funeral sermon when he could have his way. His mother had been ambitious for him to follow his father's footsteps, so he did not lack her encouragement, and at twenty-six she saw the realization of her hopes and his own when he was admitted to the A. M. E. Conference at Montgomery, Ala., in 1911 by Bishop H. B. Parks.

His first pastorate was at Tuskegee, Ala., where he came in touch with the famous Dr. Booker T. Washington, and whose public mail he looked after for eighteen months. From there he was sent to Kittrell College, at Kittrell, N. C., where he served as college pastor and for fourteen months of his time there was Dean of Theology. From there he was sent to the John M. Brown Memorial Church of Norfolk, Va., where he put in four and one-half most successful years, during which time he remodeled the church, bought a parsonage, and installed a pipe organ. He was sent to Roanoke in 1919, and there during his first year, remodeled the church at a cost of \$16,500.00 in eighteen months, added 100 members and raised over \$12,000.00 and is now building up a Bible congregation. He has attended two General Conferences of his church. The brief record here

shows that he started with good standing and has steadily grown.

He has had to struggle. Methodist preachers do not usually have much money, and after he got beyond the public school, his father could do little, so at Montgomery while at the Normal, he worked with a local florist, W. B. Patterson, and later when at college spent his vacations on lake steamers. Later still in theological school he had some help from the Board of his denomination.

Early in 1911 with the starting of his ministry, Dr. Hatcher married Gertrude Hatton of Ann Arbor, Mich., who like himself had been educated at Wilberforce University. They have one child, Avis B. Hatcher, who was converted at the age of 5 years.

Dr. Hatcher has considerable musical talent, possessed of a good tenor voice. He took lessons in expression and interpretation at the Detroit Conservatory, and has published several musical compositions, one of which, a sacred hymn, "I Cannot Drift," has been and is being widely used. Another, a "Sailors Yodel" has had extensive vogue and is now in use at the Detroit Conservatory. Other songs are "Yet Will I Rejoice," and "The Confession," a hymn.

Dr. Hatcher is absolutely absorbed in his work, outside of being an inactive Republican in politics, he has no outside affiliations whatever and has no time for anything but his ministerial work. He is a careful student of the Bible. He loves psychology, which he finds useful in his work and has the sort of useful information and knowledge which comes from extensive travel.

He is a didactic preacher who cares less for noise than he does for teaching his people, and while progressive he adheres loyally to the Bible.

A young man and he has already traveled a good way and if spared to length of days, bids fair to become one of the leaders of his church.

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## GREEN PENN

Close observers of the progress of the race in Virginia and the South have been encouraged by the increasing number of capable men who are making a place for themselves in the business world. It is one of the most hopeful signs of the times that the interests of the race are becoming more and more diversified. Negro farmers are making new records of production each year. Banks with growing resources are springing up in all the larger centers. Best of all independent real estate men are coming into their own. Not only are they making money for themselves but are doing much to encourage their people to buy homes and own land.

Among these must be mentioned Green Penn of Roanoke. Mr. Penn was born in Patrick County in 1854. His father, George Penn, was a wagoner. His mother, before her marriage, was Miss Elsie Hairston, a daughter of Reuben and Lizzie Hairston.

Green Penn grew up on the Patrick County farm and learned to do all sorts of hard work about the farm and tannery. Coming of school age during the war, he, of course, was not permitted to go to school till after Emancipation was an accomplished fact. After the war he went to the public school. On leaving Patrick County he went to Martinsville and went into business. For years he ran a store and did a retail liquor business. Being a hard worker and attentive to business he soon began to accumulate means.

In 1888 he was married to Miss Effie Penn of Martinsville. The children born to them passed away in infancy and later Mrs. Penn died also. Mr. Penn was married a second time to Mrs. Charlotte Preston. There are no living children by this marriage.

In 1906 Mr. Penn moved from Martinsville to Roanoke, where he has since resided and where he has come to be regarded as one of the most substantial colored citizens of the prosperous city of Roanoke.





On coming to Roanoke he saw the opportunities of the town. He is a good judge of values as well as a careful trader, and has accumulated valuable real estate at Roanoke. His residence on Third Ave. is one of the most attractive homes owned by any colored man in Roanoke.

Among the secret and benevolent orders, he belongs to the Pythians. He is a member of the A. M. E. Church. He has frequently entertained in his home the Bishops and other leaders of his race and church. He has been a liberal giver. In politics he is a Republican.

Such is the story of the Patrick County boy born in slavery who has come to be recognized as one of the influential citizens and business men of his home city.

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## TEMPLE PENDLETON JOHNSON

Rev. Temple Pendleton Johnson of Lynchburg is rightly numbered among the diligent, faithful laborers in the vineyard of the Lord. As preacher and pastor he is earnest and faithful. The manner in which he has met and overcome the difficulties in his way is a key to his character. Mr. Johnson was born at Mineral in Louisa Co., Va., March 26, 1869. His father, Simon Johnson, was a son of Annis Trice, his mother, Martha Johnson, was a daughter of Charlotte Johnson.

Mr. Johnson has been married twice. His first marriage was in 1901 to Miss Marcilla Cole of Louisa County. There was one child, Napoleon Johnson, by this marriage. In 1903, Mrs. Johnson passed to her reward. Mr. Johnson's second marriage was on Mar. 12, 1907, to Miss Lilly B. Tinsley, also of Louisa County.

As a boy young Johnson worked on the farm and attended the local public schools till he was about sixteen years of age. After that he went to work on the railroad and from that job went to New York where he was employed by the New York Rapid Transit Co. for nine years. On this work he was engaged in tunnelling and drilling. In this manner he earned money for his schooling. He had



been soundly converted as a boy and joined the Laurel Hill Baptist Church.

In 1888 he was called to preach but was not ordained to the full work of the ministry till 1904. He was wise enough to realize the need of preparation for his work and so entered the Virginia Seminary and College. He studied at that institution for nine years and won his B. D. degree in 1906.

He preached at Bethany and at Holcomb Rock churches four years, giving half time to each. He served the White Rock Baptist Church, Philadelphia, for three years. Splendid progress marked his work in Philadelphia but he was compelled to resign on account of failing health.

In 1909 he returned to Holcomb Rock, and at the same time he served Sharon at Big Island for five years and built a new house of worship. He resigned that work to accept the Shiloh Church at Almagro, near Danville, which he served from 1912 to 1915 and repaired the house at an expense of \$3,000.

In 1915, he was called to the Fifth Street Baptist Church of Lynchburg, which at that time had a membership of thirty-five, under his administration it has grown to four hundred. The church property, which was about to be sold under an execution, has been freed from debt, and a new house is now in contemplation, four thousand dollars has already been raised for that purpose. This was brought about largely through the efforts of Dr. Johnson who, when the church was about to be sold put himself in the breach and saved the day.

For several years Dr. Johnson was Vice-Moderator of the Peaks of Otter Association. In 1920 he was made Moderator. He has had a fruitful ministry and has baptized nearly three thousand persons. Dr. Johnson owns attractive property at Lynchburg and in Louisa County. He believes that progress depends on encouragement, the development of farm life and Christian education.

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## ALBERT WINSTON WINSLOW

Among the successful professional men whom the Old North State has contributed to Virginia, and their name is legion, must be mentioned Dr. Albert Lincoln Winslow, a prominent citizen and physician and surgeon of Danville.

Mr. Winslow is a native of Pasquotank County, N. C., where he was born on Dec. 26, 1866. His parents were Henry and Mary Winslow. Growing up in the country, young Winslow was accustomed to do all sorts of farm work and went to the short term public schools which prevailed at that time. While his father was ambitious for him, the greatest incentive of his youth was the son of the man on whose place the Winslows lived and worked. He saw this young man grow up, go to college and become a doctor, and that stirred in him the desire to do the same thing. "Where there's a will, there's a way." So our subject entered the school then being conducted at the old town of Plymouth and from there passed to Shaw University, at Raleigh. When ready for his medical course, he matriculated at Leonard Medical College, and won his M. D. degree in 1893. He spent his summer vacations at work.

In the same year in which he was graduated he located in Danville and for nearly thirty years has been identified with the professional, business and social life of his people there.

Dr. Winslow is more than a mere physician. He takes an active interest in all those movements looking to the betterment of the race. He is Vice President of the Providence Hospital and is a director and member of the finance committee of the Savings Bank of Danville.

On April 7, 1899, Dr. Winslow married Miss Celia C. Scott of Danville. Mrs. Winslow was educated at the Petersburg Normal and was, before her marriage, an accomplished teacher. They have one child, Katherine Winslow.

In politics, Dr. Winslow is a Republican. He is a member of the Baptist Church, in which he is a deacon, Supt. of S. S. and member of the finance committee. He belongs

**ALBERT WINSTON WINSLOW**

to the Masons and Odd Fellows and is local medical examiner for both, as he is also for the Standard Life Ins. Co. and the Southern Aid. He holds membership in the Old Dominion and the National Medical Societies. He has been a close observer of conditions in both the country and the city and believes that a crying need of the race is the right sort of thrift and economy.

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## ROBERT OSCAR NIZER

One of the successful resourceful business men of the race is Mr. Robert Oscar Nizer of Elkton in Rockingham County. Though deprived of a college education, he has not permitted that fact to stand in the way of his success. He has been a hard worker all his life. His parents were slaves. The date of his birth was Feb. 17, 1871. What education he secured was in the public schools of Rockingham County.

While the family was poor the boy was taught to work and trained to habits of honesty and right living. The home influences were reinforced by regular attendance at Sunday School, in which Mr. Nizer has been active one way or another nearly all his life. He joined the Baptist Church at fifteen and was ordained a deacon at eighteen. After that he was made Superintendent of the Sunday School and when he gave up that position became a teacher in the Sunday School. Having been licensed to preach, he served the Shiloh Baptist Church at Shenandoah City during 1918 as pastor and for the first time in forty years freed the church from debt.

It is as a business man, however, that he is best known. Beginning in local public work he made his way into Steelton, Penn., where he was employed as chill boss when the panic of 1893 came. Finding himself out of employment he turned his attention to the cooper's trade, which he followed till 1912. In 1901 he started merchandising. He began in such a small way as to be amusing. His capital was five dollars, which was the price of his license to do busi-

**ROBERT OSCAR NIZER**

ness. His store was a six foot pantry on his back porch and his stock of goods amounted to twenty dollars, bought on time at retail. The store grew, credit was established, and more room was required. He now owns a commodious storehouse and owns valuable real estate on the edge of town. In 1912 he gave up the cooperage business and now devotes himself to merchandising.

He is known as a good citizen and stands high with both his white and colored neighbors.

He belongs to the Pythians and is a life member of the Negro Business League, having been honored with a place on the program of the National Convention of that great organization. He is also frequently called to address religious, educational and other community gatherings.

He believes progress depends upon character first. Out of that will grow self respect and loyalty to the race. With these will come growth in business enterprises all of which will, he thinks, make for permanent progress.

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## QUALLIE WILLIAM MOONE

Dr. Quallie William Moone of Richmond is well known both as an educator and as a physician. He is a native of Halifax County, Va., where he was born about a year before the close of the war which was to bring freedom and opportunity to him and his race. The date was June 4, 1864. His parents were Albert and Lucy Moone. His grandparents were Chas. F. and Edith Lankford.

As a boy, young Moone attended the Halifax County public schools and there laid the foundation of his education. Later he went to school at what was then Manchester and after completing the high school there, accepted a place as teacher. He taught in Manchester for twenty years and has lived to enjoy that most enduring satisfaction of the teacher—seeing the boys and girls who came under his tuition grow up to manhood and womanhood and take their places in the community as useful citizens. In 1895 he was



appointed to the chair of History and Language of the Peabody Institute, which was held in Alexandria that year.

After he had been teaching a number of years he decided to study medicine and matriculated at Leonard Medical College, from which he was graduated with the M. D. degree in 1905. Since that time he has been in the active practice in Richmond.

On May 5, 1891, he was happily married to Miss Victoria Pollard of Richmond. Mrs. Moone was educated at Richmond and is herself an accomplished teacher. They had one son Romney Moone, who passed away, a young man, in 1917, during the epidemic of Influenza.

Dr. Moone is a member of the Baptist Church. He is a Mason in all branches, having reached the thirty-third degree. He is Medical Examiner for several of the secret orders and insurance companies. He is also identified with the local banks and business institutions of the race. In politics he is a Republican.

He believes the things which will most contribute to the progress of the race at this time is sympathy.

Dr. Moone was Pres. of the Richmond Medical Society, a deputy of the St. Lukes, and was formerly examiner for the Elks.

He has a splendid baritone voice and has long been in demand in Richmond musical circles.

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## FREDERICK HAMPTON RICH

Modern insurance has brought to the front in American business life many young men who have practically made a profession of a line of work which at one time was discredited in the minds of many people. This has been due to two things. The first has been the elimination of most of the fake concerns, so that now both the old time companies and the benevolent orders offer their policy holders insurance on a sound business basis carefully safeguarded by law. The other thing is the character of the men the companies and orders have sought to represent them in

**FREDERICK HAMPTON RICH**

their respective districts. For instance, in all Virginia there is to be found no finer group of colored business men than the District Superintendents of the great Southern Aid Society of Richmond. One of these, Frederick Hampton Rich, is Supt. of the Alexandria District.

Mr. Rich is a native of Alexandria, where he was born Sept. 14, 1879. His parents were William H. and Emily (Thompson) Rich. William Rich was the son of Jesse and Eliazbeth Rich, while Mrs. Rich's parents were Willis and Jane Thompson.

Mr. Rich laid the foundation of his education in the local public schools and went to Howard University one year. He was under the necessity of making his own way in school. From eighteen to twenty years of age he was employed as porter in a store where by his energy and enterprise he built the trade up to a point where the proprietor purchased horse and wagon for delivery. The following year he began teaching and taught for five years in the schools of Fairfax County and Alexandria City. Following that he was in the government service one year. He then took up insurance work and is now head of his district, covering Alexandria City and County and adjacent territory.

Mr. Rich has been married twice. His first marriage was on Nov. 20, 1912, to Miss Esther C. Bennett, daughter of Dixon and Emma Bennett. She bore him one child, Esther M. Rich. Subsequent to the death of Mrs. Rich, he was married on June 30, 1920, to Miss Knoxie Braxton, daughter of Daily and Lucinda Braxton of Salem, Va.

In politics Mr. Rich is a Republican. He belongs to the Baptist Church, in which he is trustee and financial secretary, but is not identified with the secret orders.

He believes the thing most needed by his people is an "equal and fair chance before the law, better school facilities, better paid and more competent teachers and then cooperation within the race and between the races."

Mr. Rich is Secretary of Enterprise Land and Improvement Co., Inc., and Treasurer of the New Era Building and Loan Association.

# **WILLIAM HENRY ROBERTS**

Lynchburg has some excellent representatives of the best men now coming forward from the colored people of the country. These are largely young men in the early thirties who have gained position quickly.

One of the number is William Henry Roberts, M. D., who in five years has established himself strongly as a safe and successful medical practitioner.

Dr. Roberts is a native of Lynchburg where he was born on June 28, 1887. He is the son of Charles and Caroline Roberts. Charles Roberts was a fireman and a son of Abram and Eliza Roberts. His wife was the daughter of James and Sophie Harris.

As a boy, Dr. Roberts went through the Lynchburg public schools finishing in 1905. Then having determined on an education and a profession he had to buckle down and work his own way. One year was spent at Phillips Exeter Academy, N. H. Two years were put into college work at Howard University, Washington, D. C., and then followed three years in the Medical Department of Howard University, finally completing his medical training in the Meharry Medical College from which he was graduated in 1914 with the degree of M. D.

Before going to college he worked in hotels and laundries and while in college worked in hotels. He has traveled considerably in our country, is fond of fiction and history and is vitally interested in many lines of human endeavor.

After graduation he spent six months at Wakefield, but deciding on a larger field he located in his native town and has demonstrated that a prophet may have honor in his own country.

On June 14, 1919, Dr. Roberts was married to Ora S. Williams, a daughter of Dock and Lula Williams of Danville, Va. Mrs. Roberts was educated at Hartshorn College, Richmond, Va., became a teacher, and has not yet given up her work.

Dr. Roberts is a Republican in politics and a member of

WILLIAM HENRY ROBERTS AND WIFE

the Baptist Church, in which he is a trustee. He is a member of the Old Dominion Medical Society, the Masonic Order, the order of Elks, for which he is Medical Examiner, the Good Samaritans, the Odd Fellows, for which he is Medical Examiner, and the St. Luke's Society.

During the world war he offered his services to his country and was commissioned First Lieutenant in the Medical Reserve Corps but was not called into active service.

Dr. Roberts has clear-cut ideas as to how the best interests of the race may be promoted in the State and Nation. He sums his ideas up tersely, "Better school facilities and better surroundings in places of employment."

Well equipped for his work Dr. Roberts faces the future in confidence.

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## LUTHER EDWARD B. ROSSER

Rev. Luther Edward Bunyan Rosser, D. D., now (1920) stationed at St. Luke's C. M. E. Church, Norfolk, though born in obscurity was reared in the fear of God and love of nature. He is a native of Meriwether Co., Ga., where he was born Feb. 1, 1870. His father, Lindsey Rosser, was a farmer and the boy grew up on the farm. He went to school three or four months every year, enjoying such advantages as were then available in the district schools of Georgia, but the remainder of his time was required as a contribution to the general labor on the farm, which was necessary to support the family. Dr. Rosser's mother, Annie Rosser, is still living. His grandparents were Tanner and Caroline Sewell.

His mind early turned to the serious matters of religion and he was converted at the age of ten years. When just passing out of boyhood into his youth, he was licensed to preach at fifteen, and four years later joined the conference at Fort Valley, under the late Bishop Holsey. He was a youth of such promise, that the Conference undertook his education and sent him to Payne College, Augusta, where he completed the normal course in 1890. In 1920 the D. D.

degree was conferred on him by the theological department of the same institution.

The atmosphere and environment in which Dr. Rosser was brought up were in many ways favorable to the development of a great preacher. His grandmother, although a slave at the time, was instrumental in the conversion of that pioneer of the Southern Methodist Church, Dr. Young J. Allen, and young Rosser was frequently regaled with the story of this wonderful Methodist minister, who had gone away to China. After he had been in China for twenty years, he returned and our subject came to know him personally. As a boy he also heard another great Methodist preacher of Georgia, Dr. Lovick Pierce, and his even more gifted son, the late Bishop George F. Pierce.

Dr. Rosser's father, while poor, was a man of exceptional ability, who had the confidence of the best people of both races. He was ambitious for his son and inspired him to secure an education and get on in life. Others who exerted a beneficial influence on his young life were Rev. J. S. Wallace, his local Presiding Elder, and Rev. W. Lowe, pastor.

Dr. Rosser's first appointment under the Conference was to the Irwinton Circuit, where he remained for a year. From that he passed directly to station work, going to the Holsey Temple Station at Macon, where he preached for two years. He was then transferred to Texas and preached at Greenville Station for three years and made extensive improvements on the church property. His next appointment was to Shreveport, La., where he pastored for two years, at the end of which he was promoted to the District and served as Presiding Elder for a period of four years. He was then transferred to Tennessee and preached at Dyersburg two years and at Humbolt three years. From Tennessee he was sent to the important work of the Miles Memorial Station at Washington, D. C. Such was the character of his work here that he was retained at this Station for the unprecedented period of twelve years. While on this work he made repairs to the extent of some \$12,000.00. He was then promoted to the position of Secretary of the Ministers'







L. E. B. Rasser

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Aid Society of the C. M. E. connection, which took him into every part of the country. After filling out the quadrennium in that capacity, he was sent to South Boston, Va., where he took charge of the denominational school in connection with the local pastorate. He remained on that work for three years, which greatly prospered under his administration. In 1918 he was sent to St. Luke's Station, Norfolk, under conditions which looked far from favorable. The church had recently split and only 150 members were left at St. Luke's. These were organized and elaborate building plans outlined. The whole membership went cheerfully to work and began to grow. The new building began to take shape and at the end of two years the congregation had increased from 150 to 500 members. The old house had been replaced by a splendid brick structure at a cost of more than \$40,000.00, making it the best house of worship owned by the denomination in Virginia.

Dr. Rosser is secretary of the annual gathering of the connection as well as of the General Conference. He has been a regular delegate to three General Conferences and has attended five. During the war, he was active in various drives and campaigns and had charge of the Red Cross work and the Liberty Loans among his people. His relations with the leaders of the white race have been cordial and helpful and his voice has frequently been heard in great religious gatherings of both races. In 1912 he was a delegate to the Ecumenical Conference at Toronto and was the only colored man at the conference to preach to a white congregation.

His favorite reading is naturally along the line of his work. At an early age, he was very much interested in astronomy, and at the present time he finds history and biography most helpful, with a leaning toward philosophy. He is more or less independent in politics—would perhaps be classed as a Republican in national politics but is independent in local affairs. Among the secret orders he is identified with the Masons, Pythians and Odd Fellows.

There are few, if any, men in the connection who are bet-

ter informed about religious and social conditions the country over than is Dr. Rosser. As previously stated, he has the ear, not only of the leaders of his race, but of the best element of the white race as well.

On November 15, 1897, Dr. Rosser was married to Miss Mattie Clark, of the old town of Tarboro, N. C. She was educated at the St. Francis School in Baltimore and is herself an educator, having been identified with the Miles Memorial College at Birmingham as well as other institutions.

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## JAMES HENRY SMITH

To the art of well laid plans before beginning anything Rev. James Henry Smith of Newport News attributes much of the success which has attended his career. Throughout his work, indeed, there may be traced the wise rule of preparation that has grounded each step firmly before the next logical step was taken.

He was born in Matthews County on March 6, 1861, but was reared in Gloucester County. While he has traveled extensively throughout Canada and the United States, he has done most of his work within comparatively short range of the place of his birth. A spirit of service has caused him to carve out opportunities hard by, instead of hoping to find them, ready made, in some far field.

His parents were Henry Smith and Sarah Davis, both slaves as were all the earlier ancestors as well. Owing to poverty and the general condition of things among his race at the time of his boyhood, he had great difficulty in securing an education but, fortunately, he was one of those who are not ashamed to keep on learning. His preparatory work was done at Hampton Institute, where he worked his way. Later, he graduated from Wayland Seminary in 1886, from Storer College 1888, and from Howard University in 1892. The Virginia Theological Seminary and College conferred on him the degree of D. D. in 1905.

At the age of nineteen he was converted and felt the call to preach almost immediately. In 1886 he was licensed

and on August 16, 1892, was ordained to the full work of the ministry by the Zion Poplar Baptist Church, following which he pastored in the capital city of the nation, Washington, D. C., for two years. He then returned to Gloucester and Matthews Counties for ten years and pastored there and in York County twelve years and has since made headquarters at Newport News, where he has been preaching for sixteen years. He has generally had charge of several churches and the long terms of these pastorates bespeak the high character of his success in them.

Dr. Smith gradually became, through his ability to handle men and affairs, a power also in fraternal work. He is Chief Grand Mentor of the Knights and Daughters of Tabor, President of the local Civic League, and stands high in the Masons and St. Lukes. In politics he is a Republican and is secretary of the convention and often lectures on the political issues of the day. He believes that the progress of the race depends upon the possession and wise use of the ballot.

Dr. Smith was for nineteen years Moderator of the Tidewater Baptist Association and has since 1896 been Trustee of the Virginia Theological Seminary and College.

He has been "diligent in business," finding riches at his own door, so to speak, in the growth and development of local industries. He was made business manager, in 1895, of the Gloucester Manufacture & Mercantile Company, and the following year became President of the Gloucester Oyster Investment & Mutual Benefit Company, holding these important executive positions for eight years each, respectively.

Among the constructive achievements must be mentioned that he erected a splendid hall on Madison Avenue for the Knights & Daughters of Tabor, which order grew under his administration to a membership of 2,500.

Dr. Smith is now pastoring the First Baptist Church, East End, Newport News, where he has been since 1904. His property interests and investments are in and around this city.

On November 8, 1893, Dr. Smith was married to Miss Susan A. Jackson, a daughter of William A. and Susan A. Jackson. Mrs. Smith was educated at Storer College and had for ten years been a teacher prior to her marriage. They have one child, Beatrice Bell Frances Smith, who is a graduate of Storer College and a teacher in the public schools of Newport News.

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## WILLIAM HENRY SMITH

Dr. William Henry Smith, Grand Treasurer of the Grand Fountain of the United Order of True Reformers and Editor of the True Reformer, the official organ of the order, is a native of Norfolk.

The date of his birth was June 3, 1873. His father, Leander Smith, was a son of William H. and Mary Ann Smith. Dr. Smith's mother, before her marriage was Miss Louisa Brown, a daughter of William H. and Hester Brown.

Young Smith grew up in Norfolk, robust of body and with a bright mind. He attended the local public schools, after graduating valedictorian of his class in June, 1890, he passed to that excellent institution known as Norfolk Mission College, from which he graduated with distinction in May, 1895. He worked with his grandfather in the fish and restaurant business and in this manner supported himself in school. Later when he decided to study pharmacy, he matriculated at Howard University in Oct., 1900, spent two years there. He took his final year at the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy, where he won his Doctor of Pharmacy degree in 1903.

Prior to this on September 24, 1900, he was married to Mrs. Mary A. Brown, who is a native of Alabama, and who was the widow of the late Rev. W. W. Brown, founder of the Grand Fountain United Order of True Reformers.

In the fall of 1903 following his graduation, Dr. Smith located in Richmond and established Smith's Pharmacy, at 609 N. Second St. In January, 1911, he moved to 301 W.

WILLIAM HENRY SMITH



Baker St. In 1915 he retired from that field to devote his entire time to his present work.

He had for some time been interested in the work of the True Reformers, the general headquarters of which are in Richmond. In November, 1911, he was elevated to the position of Grand Treasurer. Four years later he retired from the drug business entirely and has since devoted his whole time to the work of the order. In addition to being treasurer he is also one of the general deputies, besides being editor and manager of the semi-monthly organ of the order, "The Reformer," through which he speaks to a wide circle twice a month. So it will be seen that Dr. Smith is a very busy man.

He is a member of Third Street Bethel A. M. E. Church and is on the board of trustees. In addition to his identity with the True Reformers, he also belongs to the St. Lukes, the Odd Fellows, the Masons, the American Woodmen, Love and Charity, and the Elks. In politics he is a Republican.

As a newspaper man, he, of course, finds it necessary to keep up with the current papers. After that his preferred reading consists of history and biography.

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## LIZZIE LUNSFORD STANARD

It is a noteworthy fact that in Negro organizations and enterprises, the women of the race are in every way keeping pace with the men. Nowhere in the South is this more noticable than in Virginia.

Mrs. Lizzie Lunsford Stanard of Richmond, Grand Worthy Secretary of the Grand Fountain United Order of True Reformers, is a living demonstration that contact with business matters need not deprive a lady of those qualities which make her charming and her home attractive. Mrs. Stanard, who, before her marriage, was Miss Fentress, is a daughter of George and Elizabeth (Burwell) Fentress. She was born at Richmond May 12, 1871. Her maternal grandparents were William and Fannie Burwell. She was married on Feb. 11, 1893. She has one son, Edward L.

**LIZZIE LUNSFORD STANARD**

Stanard, who served with honors in the A. E. F. of the World War.

As a girl Mrs. Stanard attended the Richmond public and high schools, where she made a good record as a student. Later she went to Hartshorn College. She is an accomplished musician and is especially proficient on the organ and has been organist of the St. Philips Protestant Episcopal Church Choir for 25 years.

Back in the nineties she became identified with the True Reformers. Beginning as a clerk in the supply department, the character of her work was such as to win for her steady promotion till now she is Grand Worthy Secretary of the Grand Fountain.

She has not allowed this, however, to absorb her whole time and attention, but is also identified with several racial organizations and is interested in various religious organizations. She enjoys the distinction of being president of the Richmond branch of the N. A. A. C. P. and is a member of the Council of Colored Women. She belongs to the Episcopal Church and is a member of the Woman's Auxiliary of St. Philips. She is also identified with the St. Lukes and the American Woodmen.

Mrs. Stanard's work has brought her in contact with leaders of the race and others from every part of the country and she is of the opinion that the things most needed are co-operation between the races, better schools, better living conditions and the abolition of that spirit which finds its expression in segregation, jimcrowism and lynching. She believes that of proper success is to come, the races must be permeated with the spirit of "the Fatherhood of God, and the brotherhood of man."

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## **RICHARD FILIMORE TANCIL**

Dr. Richard Filimore Tancil is dean of the medical profession of his race in Richmond, having been in the active practice in that city for nearly forty years.

**RICHARD FILIMORE TANCIL**

He is a native of Fauquier County, having been born at Warrenton. His parents were Isaac N. and Louisa Tancil.

As a boy young Tancil worked on the farm. When the family moved to the old town of Alexandria he attended the public school there and laid the foundation of his education. When he aspired to a higher education the way was not easy but the difficulties did not discourage the young man. Having been taught to work, he found employment in Washington and by his own exertions made his way in school. He entered Howard University for his literary course and after that matriculated in the medical department of the same institution, where he won his M. D. degree in 1882. During his medical course he worked as a barber, and prior to that in a tailor shop or at such general work as enabled him to earn the money for his college expenses. On the completion of his course, he was made Assistant Superintendent of the Central Asylum at Richmond, a position which he held for more than two years. After that he engaged in the general practice which steadily grew to large proportions.

On July 24, 1883, he was married to Miss Mary D. Lane of Alexandria. Mrs. Tancil was, before her marriage, an accomplished teacher in the Alexandria schools. They have two children, Richard F. Tancil, Jr., and Pearl Tancil, now Mrs. Langston, whose husband is head of the Smallwood-Corey School at Claremont.

Dr. Tancil is a Republican in politics and was at one time active in the councils of his party, having been a member of the State Executive Committee. He is a member of the Baptist Church and among the secret orders, belongs to the Masons.

He is identified with the Richmond, the Old Dominion and the National Medical organizations and is a director of the Richmond Hospital.

He is the type of man who succeeds at whatever he undertakes and so has not only made a success by his own efforts but has pointed the way by which others may succeed.

## WALTER SCOTT WOODSON

Walter Scott Woodson, Grand Master of the Grand Fountain of the United Order of True Reformers, is an outstanding figure in the work of that great benevolent order over which he has presided since September, 1916.

All his life he has been a hard worker. He has succeeded, because when he undertakes a thing he devotes himself to that thing and seeks to do it well.

While his residence is at Staunton, his work at headquarters in Richmond and in the field keeps him away from home much of the time.

He was born in Nelson County, just before the outbreak of the war on June 27, 1860. His parents were William and Louisa (Jefferson) Woodson.

Mr. Woodson was married on July 25, 1889, to Miss Isetta Green of Nelson County. She was a daughter of Fountain and Margaret Green. Mr. and Mrs. Woodson have four children, Annie (Mrs. Burns), Frank E., Carrie (Mrs. Anderson), and Emma G. Woodson. Young Woodson grew up in Nelson County and went to the local rural schools. From 1879 to 1882 he was employed on public work. In 1883, he began teaching in his native county and taught for sixteen years. For the first part of this period he farmed during the summer, but in 1895 he began work as a deputy in the True Reformers. In 1899 he gave up teaching and from then until 1908 devoted his whole time to the work of the True Reformers. After that he took up insurance work and was with the Southern Mutual for five years and after that with the Southern Aid till 1916. In that year he was placed at the head of the True Reformers (a short history of the order follows this biography), where his years' of experience have enabled him to render effective service.

In politics he is a Republican and as a young man took considerable interest in the councils of the party.

In recent years, however, he has not been active. He belongs to the Baptist Church. His work has been of a

WALTER SCOTT WOODSON

character to enable him to study conditions among his people and is of the opinion that the race needs to develop self confidence, race pride and spirit of co-operation.

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## THE TRUE REFORMERS

The story of the organization and development of the work of the Grand Fountain of the United Order of True Reformers is one of surpassing interest.

Like every great movement, it has had its backsets and its misfortunes, but the principles on which it was founded are sound. Accordingly, whenever its affairs have been administered by the right sort of leaders it has been triumphant.

The founder of the organization was Rev. William Washington Browne, who for the first seventeen years of its history directed the work of the order and brought the institution up to a place second to none among the benevolent orders.

Mr. Browne was a native of Habersham County, Georgia, but went to Richmond from Alabama in 1881. The United Order of True Reformers was an outgrowth of the Independent Order of Good Templars of the World, while the name was brought over and used in the Grand Fountain of the United Order of True Reformers, it was to all intents and purposes a new order. Its benefits, insurance, banks, business enterprises and related organizations were all worked out independent of the old organization. The beginnings in Richmond were small enough to have discouraged the most enthusiastic but having been founded on the right basis the order began to grow and attracted to the local Fountains many of the most enterprising men and women of the race. With the growth in numbers and with the development of a spirit of co-operation and self reliance, it was seen that the people were capable of building for themselves business and financial institutions. New classes of insurance were added from time to time, the Rosebuds were organized and thus the interest of the children en-



listed. A bank—the first real negro bank in the United States—was organized in Richmond and enjoyed years of prosperity, till wrecked by improper management.

Real estate was purchased and business enterprises established. Many of the most capable men of the race in the South today had their training in the True Reformers.

A history covering the first quarter century of the order has been prepared and tells a remarkable story.

Mr. Browne was succeeded by Rev. W. L. Taylor, D. D., as Grand Worthy Master and President. The wrecking of the bank and the fall of the business enterprises naturally retarded the progress of the order and had it not been founded on right principles would have wrecked it completely. It was possible, however, to reorganize it and proceed under conservative management.

At present (1921), Mr. W. S. Woodson is the Grand Worthy Master and has associated with him a corps of general officers and helpers who are working faithfully for the good of the institution. At this time the order is represented in seven states and the District of Columbia, and has more than 300 local Fountains and a total membership of more than 5,000.

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## ULYSSES GRANT WILSON

If those boys, who imagine they are having a hard time in securing an education could read the story of Prof. Ulysses Grant Wilson now (1921) Principal of the Tidewater Institute in Northampton County, they would find it full of helpful inspiration.

Prof. Wilson is a native of Texas, having been born at Texarkana, on May 28, 1890. His father, James Wilson, was an engine repairer, and his mother, who, before her marriage, was Miss Elizabeth Boswell, was a daughter of Lena Boswell, who went with her children from Mound Bayo, Miss., to Texas after Emancipation. Young Wilson had the sad misfortune to lose his mother when he was seven years of age, just when he was starting to school.



For two years thereafter his education was neglected. At the end of that time a cousin residing in Waco took our subject and his younger sister into her home and the boy went to school in Waco for ten years, but under difficulties. He was made and held responsible for all the chores in the family both morning and evening. This meant working early and late with but little time for study. His folks were not unkind, but did not realize that the growing boy needed rest and sleep. Under these conditions his progress was not rapid, and it is not strange that he became discouraged. He was induced, however, to persevere and in that way formed the habit of seeing a thing through even under difficulties. When nineteen years of age he started to Virginia Union University with few clothes and no money except railroad fare. The story of his struggle there and the manner in which he won his way in the face of difficulties cannot be told better than in his own language.

He says: "Through the kindness of Drs. C. M. P. King and Geo. R. Hovey, I was permitted to stay in school that year. During my seven years there it was a hard struggle to acquire an education since there was no one to help me financially. During the summer I worked in the Pullman service for a few years and the rest of the time at a small boarding house in New Jersey. This work did not afford me sufficient funds so I was obliged to work my way through school each year. Because of my faithfulness to my work I was constantly promoted, first from work on the farm I became a baker for two years, then head waiter in the student dining room, and next year I cooked for the teachers, and the last year was teacher in elementary subjects.

"Many times I went for month after month without a penny, but with confidence in God. I kept a cheerful spirit and never suffered for anything I really needed. I was always willing to make the sacrifice because I had seen the need of an education."

During these years the religious training of childhood stood him in good stead and the Bible was the Book to

which he turned for help and inspiration. He found the seventh chapter of Proverbs especially helpful and was spurred on by the immortal words of Longfellow, "Life is earnest, life is real."

It will be seen that even before completing his college course he was teaching. Since his graduation he has devoted himself to educational work. His first school was a two-room rural school in Mecklenburg County. The pay was \$20.00 per month from the public fund. To this the patrons added \$10.00 per month for a part of the time. Before leaving there Mr. Wilson saw the money for a new building raised and the building completed. The following year, 1917, he was made assistant principal and teacher at the Bluestone and Harmony Institute at Keysville. He was re-elected for the succeeding year but resigned to accept the principalship of the Tidewater Institute at Cobbs, Va.

At that time the school had become involved in debt and the plant was incomplete. The attitude of the community was far from encouraging. With characteristic energy and patience Mr. Wilson entered upon his work. The debt has been paid, the course of study has been revised and raised, the plant has been greatly improved and the faculty has been strengthened. The results show in the attendance and the character of the work. The boarding department is filled and the attitude of the community is one of encouragement.

Soon after going to the Eastern Shore, Prof. Wilson was married on September 14, 1918, to Miss Leah Marie Freeman, a daughter of Amos and Anna Freeman of Danville, Virginia.

Mrs. Wilson was educated at Hartshorn Memorial College, Richmond, Va., and is herself an accomplished teacher. Prof. Wilson believes that the progress of the race depends upon Christian education.

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# ZACHARIAH TAYLOR WHITING

The life story of the Rev. Zachariah T. Whiting, of Ordinary, Va., though one in "labors abundant," and from one angle a prosaic catalogue of work done, from another angle borders on romance.

The veteran, for he is now past three score and ten, but yet active in the work, was born in Gloucester County, which has been his life-long home, on August 3 1850; son of Daniel and Hannah (Booth) Whiting. He was a slave until a big boy and had no opportunity to acquire learning. Even after freedom there was for some years no chance at schooling except by going to some one at night which he did. Later on when a man grown he was able to arrange with the school board and get four years in public school and even then profoundly impressed that his life work must be the Gospel ministry he studied hard and finally got another two years in the Richmond Theological Seminary.

To understand the magnitude of this man's work grasp the fact that of his ancestry he knew nothing beyond his mother's statement that his maternal grandmother was brought here from Africa and the further fact that he had all told six years of schooling.

His dearest ambition was realized on March 6, 1877, when he was ordained to the Baptist ministry by the First Baptist Church of Gloucester for the Shiloh Baptist Church, James City, Va., becoming pastor of that church immediately and having served it up to the present—43 years. But this was not enough for his zealous spirit. Later on he added to his work the Berea Baptist Church, Gloucester County, where he built a fine house of worship in 1893, and continues yet as pastor of that congregation. Adding again to his work, he took the pastorate of Mr. Pilgrim Baptist Church in York County, built a fine house of worship in 1897 and continues as pastor to the present (1921).

In addition to these three lengthy pastorates he has during his forty-three years of service pastored New Zion Church, James City County; Second Baptist Church, James City County; Smithfield Baptist Church, of Gloucester, and Ware Neck Church, both in Gloucester County.

At this writing (1921), he is Vice Moderator of the Norfolk Union Baptist Association. This is a remarkable record when we consider that he has for from 30 to 40 years coterminously pastored three churches in three different counties, and sandwiched in four others at intervals.

Rev. Whiting has been twice married, first, July 16, 1873, to Louise Singleton, daughter of Wallace and Fannie Singleton. His second marriage was contracted December 25, 1878, with Clara Henrietta Jackson, daughter of John and Laura Jackson. Of his ten children all are living, viz: James Taylor, Sam A., John T., George W., Mary F., Elizabeth J., Hannah A., Clara H., Madaline L., and Julia A. Whiting.

In reviewing his life Mr. Whiting considers that attendance at Sunday School, reading the Bible and constant prayer were the influential factors in shaping his career. Living remote from great libraries, he has bought such good books as he could afford, but the Bible has been his constant companion and never failing source of inspiration and help. He is a Republican in politics, for 15 years a judge of election, and holds membership in the Odd Fellows, Masons and Knights of Gideon. As to the needs of the race, Rev. Whiting has strong convictions. While there are many directions in which much might be done, he stresses two. First, education. This he puts up to the whites. He considers that there should be equal facilities given the colored people and equal pay to their teachers, that the white people owe this because the Negroes for generations contributed their all to building up the white people in material things, and that they owe it, secondly, because they ought to live up to the Golden Rule and this would be a practical application.

Second, the duty of the colored people to draw into the Christian church, follow the teachings of our Lord, live righteous lives and thereby set a good example, they would be making a contribution not only to their own race but to the whole nation. "For righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people."

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## LEWIS WELLINGTON WALES

The simple record of the life and work of Rev. Louis Wellington Wales, D. D., of Williamsburg, is a story of surpassing interest. He was born to slave parents, near Charlottesville in Albemarle County, just before the outbreak of the war, on Feb. 25, 1860. His father, Manoah Wales, was a carpenter. He was owned by the Cravens of Charlottesville and later, by the marriage of his young mistress, passed into the possession of the Lewis family. Being a carpenter by trade and being found in the vigor of his manhood during the war, he was forced into the service of the Confederate Army and assisted in throwing up the breastworks for the defense of Richmond. After the war, the family moved to Gordonsville, Va., and Manoah Wales, after passing a creditable examination, was ordained to the ministry and was a pioneer Baptist preacher among the colored people of the Piedmont section of Virginia, where he organized the Piedmont Ministers' and Deacons' Union, which he served as moderator for a number of years. He passed away in 1897, at the ripe old age of 73.

Dr. Wales' mother, Sallie Wales, was owned by the distinguished Rives family, of Castle Hill, in Albemarle County. She was the mother of thirteen children, eleven of whom grew to maturity. She survived till September, 1907. Both parents were of fine physique and much above the average slaves in moral and intellectual strength. Although rearing a large family they, by their industry and frugality, accumulated considerable property and were classed among the good livers of that section. Both were devout Christians, so that our subject had the advantage of being brought up in a Christian atmosphere.

While he was an infant, young Wales and his mother were sold to a slave trader to be taken South. The father even at that time could see his family only once or twice a week on account of the distance between them. He was astonished on one of those visits to find the young mother prostrated, and for some time unable to tell him what had





happened. She sobbed out the pitiful story of her sale and the inevitable separation. After hearing the story, he left the house and spent the rest of the night on his knees in the woods. He felt directed to go see the owner of his wife and baby. He told her of the sad separation she was bringing about by selling from him the wife she had given him, together with his first-born. Mrs. Judith Page Rives, the mistress, was a noble Christian woman, of the very best blood in Virginia. She listened patiently to his plea and then said: "Manoah, go in peace. I will annul the sale and will never separate you. God bless you."

Coming to school age, after the family moved to Gordonsville, Dr. Wales there attended the school which had been set up by Northern people, and later went to the public school, when one had been established. In 1875 he was happily converted and joined the Pleasant Grove Baptist Church of Gordonsville.

Following the example of his father, he felt constrained to preach the Gospel and in 1881 was licensed by the Pleasant Grove Baptist Church. He was ordained to the full work of the ministry on June 15, 1885, by the Mt. Zion Baptist Church of Charlottesville.

In 1881, he went to the Richmond Institute, now Virginia Union University, graduating from the academic and theological departments in 1885. His school life in the Seminary and College was one of credit to the school and to himself. He preached his first sermon in Richmond, while a student, at the rear of the old scale house, at the Old Market, where he would preach to two or three hundred people, almost every Saturday afternoon. Organized the first Sunday School in the Henrico County Courthouse, and along with another student, H. Conway, taught every Sunday afternoon the children who did not attend any Sunday School.

In 1901, the Guadalupe College of Texas, conferred on him the D. D. degree. In 1909, Dr. Wales received from Virginia Union University a post-graduate diploma.

It takes but a few words to outline his education, and yet these years of his life were filled with struggle and no

end of hard work. Fortunately a lady from the North became interested in him and paid his board at school.

In 1885, just a few months prior to his graduation, he had an interesting experience. The story of his father's prayers has already been told. The young minister, while feeling called to preach, lacked assurance. He prayed the matter over, and asked God to give him a definite call, if it was the Divine will that he should enter upon the active work of the ministry. Without his seeking, or knowledge, there came to him the opportunity to go to Mount Ararat Baptist Church, at Williamsburg. The president of the school had received from that church a letter, requesting that a young man be sent up to preach a trial sermon. On account of some former difficulties, they had set a standard for the new preacher which Dr. Wales concluded could be met only by an angel of light. Yet, on the advice of Dr. Corey, he went to Williamsburg, preached, received and accepted a call to the pastorate, and for thirty-five years since has been a vital part of the religious, educational, social and business life of his people in and around Williamsburg.

From that day to this, he has never questioned his acceptance with God, nor his call to this particular field of labor. He began his work in that field July 1, 1885, and preached his introductory sermon on the second Sunday in July of that year. His text on that occasion was: "For I determined not to know anything among you save Jesus Christ, and Him crucified."

The congregation was small, numbering only 68 members, nearly a third of whom were away. Each year one or more revivals have been conducted in the church, so that the congregation grew rapidly in numbers and in spiritual power. Such was the character and conduct of the young preacher himself, that he had the support and co-operation not only of his own people, but of the best white people of the town. The late Benjamin S. Ewell, at that time President of William and Mary College, was a good friend of his and helped him in many ways. Among other things, he gave him access to the splendid college library.

Let it not be supposed, however, that the young preacher had easy sailing. There were difficulties enough; and he was frequently confronted by obstacles which seemed insurmountable. He would not turn back, however, but with his faith in God, and his face to the front, continued to work and pray and steadily grew in the esteem of the best people in the historic old place.

On May 5, 1887, about two years after going to Williamsburg, Dr. Wales was married to Miss Sarah E. Ashby, a daughter of John and Jane Ashby, of Williamsburg. Two children were born to them. Lewis Wellington Wales, Jr., and Lillian Ruth Wales. The daughter passed away in infancy, but the son is living, and now engaged in the ministry and educational work.

Soon after going to Williamsburg, he had the wisdom and foresight to buy a home on Francis Street, one of the best residential streets in the town, where he has since resided. With the passing of the years, he gradually accumulated more and more real estate, until he came to be one of the largest owners of realty in Williamsburg.

In 1886, he was elected principal of the public graded school. He taught in Williamsburg seven years altogether and after that taught for several years in James City and York counties, spending fourteen years, all told, as a teacher in the school room.

He has also pastored other churches in the country, including New Zion, James City County, where he preached for more than six years; Mt. Gilead, at McGruder, which he pastored sixteen years; Rising Sun, in York County, which he served for ten years; Shoulders Hill, in Nansemond County, where he preached for six years; Jerusalem, in James City County, over which he presided for eight years; and Big Bethel, in Dinwiddie County, which he served for seven years.

Dr. Wales is a prominent figure in the work of the denomination. He was for seven years Treasurer of the Baptist State Convention and for a long time was secretary of his local association. He also served as chairman of the

executive board of the convention and Corresponding Secretary of the Tidewater Baptist Association. He is a trustee of the Virginia Theological Seminary and College, at Lynchburg. He is in constant demand for anniversary sermons and special occasions and during his long career as a preacher has done extensive evangelistic work. Since entering the ministry he has baptized not less than 1,200 people. Among the secret orders he is identified with the Masons and Gideous.

In politics, he is a Republican and while not seeking office or political place, has kept in touch with the movement of affairs, so as to counsel his people wisely. He is at this time a Notary Public.

Dr. Wales believes that a great need of his people is race pride, and another condition of progress is a spirit of co-operation.

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## JAMES HENRY THOMAS

In the little city of Martinsville, Va., resides Prof. James Henry Thomas, who for twenty years has given all that is in him for the building up of a school there to help his race in the struggle for improvement.

It is remarkable what a number of strong educators the Negro race has developed, and along with their ability, their self-sacrificing and unselfish labor shines out like a brilliant star in this age of dark and greedy materialism. Prof. J. H. Thomas is an excellent example of these splendid pioneers.

He was born in Chatham, Va., Sept. 11, 1877, a son of Pratt and Ellen Matthews Thomas. His father was a brick mason.

As a boy he attended public school in his native village and then entered the Virginia Normal and Collegiate Institute, before the legislature abolished the Collegiate department. He spent five years there and was graduated in 1898 with the degree of A. B.

As he says, "I had the usual difficulties of the poor yet

**JAMES HENRY THOMAS' RESIDENCE AND PIEDMONT CHRISTIAN INSTITUTE**

ambitious youth, worked during vacations in brick yards and tobacco factories, could afford nothing new for graduation but a pair of cheap shoes and equally cheap trousers which were a misfit."

He became a country school teacher. At the age of fourteen he had been converted and joined the Christian church, sometimes known as the Disciples of Christ. At the age of twenty-three he felt called to preach, and before he was ordained, a missionary field came in sight. The story has to be told briefly. About the time he graduated, the Negro Disciples of Christ conceived the idea of founding a school of their own in the Piedmont district. The idea grew and he was earnestly solicited to go to Martinsville in Sept., 1900, where he found nothing but a need. Possibly he was disappointed, he does not say, but certainly he refuses to be daunted. The first Monday in Oct., 1900, he started the Martinsville (now Piedmont) Christian Institute in the Fayette Street Christian Church with seven pupils and himself as teacher. During the first session he enrolled forty-three scholars and established a certain degree of confidence in the enterprise. The Christian Woman's Board of Missions, a white organization chartered under the laws of Indiana, took an active interest in his work and began to support it more and more. The history of the ensuing year is a moving story, but the young principal set his jaw and went forward. Finally he bought a farm (value \$3,250.00) and the business men of the little town gave him \$1,000.00 to help pay for it. He had arrived. The enrollment of the 20th session was one hundred and sixty-fifty, with a faculty of eight teachers and a budget of \$9,000.00. The increase in scholars from the first session to that point was three hundred per cent—in faculty seven hundred per cent—in income twenty-nine hundred per cent. And now they are erecting a \$60,000.00 building.

Mr. Thomas is in his prime, and if he lives out his full three score years and ten will leave behind him a great monument in the work he has done and is doing.

He was ordained to the Christian ministry in 1904 and

from that time to the present has been pastor of the Fayette Street Christian Church except for the years 1907-14, during which he resigned the pulpit to an ordained member of his faculty so that the latter might have his salary augmented. Mr. Thomas is an able pulpit speaker and has an excellent literary style, having been a frequent contributor of essays, fiction and verse to such leading periodicals of the Disciples of Christ as the Christian Standard, the Christian Evangelist, the World Call and the Gospel Plea. He has the distinction of having been a paid contributor to one of these literary journals and is probably the only colored man ever so honored. He loves good reading and has an excellent library. The New Testament, Dunbar, Shakespeare, Dickens, Carlyle and Emerson head his list of favorites.

His work at various times has carried him to our leading cities and he has a good knowledge of our own country.

He is an Independent in politics, has given much service to the cause of Prohibition, and was active in war work campaigns and drives. He was one of the organizers of the local branch of the N. A. A. C. P., declining the presidency but serving as vice-president.

On Oct. 12, 1904, Mr. Thomas was married to Miss Margaret N. Griffin, a daughter of Pendleton and Cornelia Griffin. Mrs. Thomas was educated at Canonsburg, Pa., and Ingleside Seminary, and was a teacher before her marriage, and is of invaluable help to her husband as supervising matron of the Institute. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas have four living children, Ruth Ellen, James Hillard, Bessie Pauline, and Gertrude Mae Thomas.

As to the promotion of the best interests of the race, Mr. Thomas says, "Practical Christianity epitomized in the Golden Rule, is the only thing that will promote the best interests of the race, and not only of the race, but of the nation as a whole." In that brief sentence he has summarized the only solution for the ills of humanity.

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## CHARLES B. W. GORDON

In Petersburg, Va., there lives and does his appointed work a man who is preacher, editor, orator, poet, administrator and who after thirty-six years of heroic labor in that city, stands out among the present day workers of the Old Dominion, a gigantic figure whose labors have builded what will be for him an enduring monument.

This man, Rev. Charles B. W. Gordon, D. D., pastor of the Baptist Tabernacle, was born of slave parents at Colerain, Bertie Co., N. C., Nov. 1, 1861.

At the moment of his birth the greatest Civil War of all history was in its opening stages. Human slavery, if not the whole cause, was at least the precipitating occasion, but even with the war raging there were millions who at the moment when the boy was born had no idea of the vast ocean of human blood which would be spilled, the treasures which would be wasted and the cataclysmic changes which would result, chiefest among which was the abolition of chattel slavery and freedom for the boy and millions more of his race.

Young Gordon was fortunate in his ancestry. His maternal great-grandfather was Charles Brown Holly, a gigantic and powerful man of valiant spirit who was a body servant of his master during the Revolutionary War.

Had his own freedom been at stake he could not have fought more resolutely than he did against the British. There appears to have been a strong attachment in this case between Holly and his master. Holly was a sort of overseer, of free speech, who expressed his opinions freely to his master, was always listened to with consideration and his counsel often followed. He frequently saved his master's life during their military service and after the war was given his freedom. Charles Holly had only one child, who was a slave. She married Willy Holley, who was also a slave. She had a daughter, Nancy, a handsome woman, resolute in her moral convictions, she allowed herself to be sold and separated from her husband and baby rather than



CHARLES B. W. GORDON AND FAMILY

yield to the demands of a lecherous master. Willy Holly was a shrewd man, considering his environment, and eventually he was able to buy his freedom. Nancy Holly grew up and married Daniel Gordon, who was a slave and a preacher. During the war Daniel Gordon escaped to the Federals and later Nancy and little Charles, then a baby, were placed under Federal protection.

Nancy was an accomplished seamstress, she buckled down to strenuous work and aided her husband in rearing a large family. At five years of age Charles entered school under Mr. Thomas Nixon at Roanoke Island. The little fellow developed a most precocious intellect and in a little while was the hero of the school. When Charles was about ten years old his parents moved to Perquimans Co., N. C., and took up farming and the boy Charles was put to work. His intense thirst for knowledge caused him to pursue his studies under an older sister, Huldah Ann Gordon, who was the first colored public school teacher in North Carolina. The lad early developed oratorical talent and his heart was set upon becoming a lawyer, but Providence ordained otherwise.

He was prominent in neighborhood sports and entertainments and the only trace of religious sentiment appeared in his faithful attendance at Sunday School. At a Sunday School Convention in Perquimans Co., in 1877, being then not seventeen years of age, he electrified the convention with his oratory.

Farming was a success but Charles wearied of it, so with his parents' consent he saw them settled comfortably and in his eighteenth year entered Elizabeth City Normal School. He remained there two years, made a great reputation as a public speaker and then winning a first grade certificate took a school at Brick Kill. In the fall of that year a boy of twenty, he was elected Principal of the Windsor Public School. It was a large school and called for a high order of ability and it was the universal agreement that he was the best teacher the school ever had.

Meantime his entire scheme of life was in ruins. He had

been soundly converted and he felt the overwhelming call to consecrate himself with all his wonderful talents to the Lord's work.

After a year at Windsor, with the decision made, he left Windsor, despite all inducements to remain, and entered Richmond Institute, now the Union University, to prepare for the ministry. During the vacation of 1882 he traveled in Eastern North Carolina preaching and lecturing with great success. During that year the vein of poetry in his nature found expression in some lyrics which made him a reputation in that line.

In October, 1882, he resumed his studies and the next summer made a preaching and publishing house tour through Eastern North Carolina which made him a wide reputation. He went back to school in the fall and remained until January, 1884, when he received two calls, one from the Mt. Calvary Baptist Church of Richmond, and the other from the First Baptist Church of Petersburg. Here was a young man just past twenty-two still in school being called to a church with an hundred years of history and a membership of between four and five thousand, the largest known membership in the country; a church which had never been in favor of young men, which had heard Dr. Gordon but once, and that on the occasion of a visit to Petersburg. It was as great a testimonial as any young men ever received.

Confident in his own resources and with unlimited faith in the help of God the young man accepted the Petersburg call and for seven years administered the affairs of that great congregation with signal ability and success. He was fortunate in one thing that, even in his early youth, he had the mental maturity of a man of forty.

While in school at Richmond his father died and when he had located in Petersburg he took his mother with him. Some years afterward he found his grandmother in Tenn. and they were the joy of his home to the day of their death.

In the spring of 1890 the way seemed to have opened for another Baptist Church in Petersburg and on March 27 of

that year some hundred and fifty met and organized the Tabernacle Baptist Church.

Within three months the temporary organization had grown to seven hundred members and within five months from organization moved into their own building.

The Tabernacle Baptist Church is now nearly thirty-one years old, and all these years the church has been guided by Dr. Gordon, who identified himself with it from the beginning. Its history has been one of growth and usefulness. It has become one of the institutions of Petersburg, and its pastor, who is commonly referred to as Pastor Gordon, has shown here the same building qualifications he developed when at the First Church and at this writing (1921) a new Tabernacle, costing eighty thousand dollars is being built. In his long service in Petersburg, Dr. Gordon has baptized over five thousand persons. He has truly been "in labors abundant."

As erect as an Indian, tall and graceful, with the manner and mien of an orator, he attracts attention in any assembly. He is a virile man, does not hesitate to risk unpopularity if his convictions are that something should be said or done that may not please the public, but in the summing up he has been the winner, for the army of his friends outnumber the few who do not like him because of the positions which he has taken.

On Sept. 2, 1904, Dr. Gordon was married to Miss Mary Frances Dickinson. Of this marriage there is one son, Charles B. W. Gordon, Jr., who is now in High School, and whose brilliant scholarship shows that in the years to come he will be worthy to wear the mantle which to his father has been truly a prophetic possession.

A volume of 420 pages of Dr. Gordon's select sermons have run through several editions and this is the greatest test of a preacher, for when a sermon is put into cold print and separated from the magnetism of the speaker it must be of high merit to win wide popularity as has been accorded to Dr. Gordon's sermons.

For twenty-five years he edited and published the Na-

tional Pilot, a religious weekly publication with noted success. Said publication was temporarily suspended to erect the new house of worship of the Tabernacle now in course of construction.

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## DAVID WASHINGTON HARRIS

Rev. David Washington Harris, a successful Baptist minister of Norfolk, entered upon the ministry of the Gospel after years of experience as a business man. As a matter of fact, he fought off the impression that he ought to preach the Gospel for a number of years, but could never quite escape the insistent call of the Master to this particular line of work. Finally he surrendered himself to the Divine leadership and is now devoting his whole time to the ministry, and with marked success.

Dr. Harris is a native of Brooklyn, N. Y., where he was born just about the beginning of the war, on March 6, 1891. His father, Henry Harris, was a laborer and was a son of Edward and Lovey Harris. His mother who, before her marriage, was Miss Lydia Hodges, was a daughter of Charles and Julia Hodges.

The Harris family lived in New York till the boy was eight years of age and then moved to Norfolk. Here the boy attended the public school. Later he worked in the restaurants and learned to be a good cook which, after a while, took him to Atlantic City, N. Y.

He was converted at the age of fourteen, but did not join the church until later. As previously stated, he early felt the call to the ministry but was not licensed to preach until 1904. In 1907 he was ordained by the Bethel Baptist Church. In the meantime, he had taken a private course in theology, in order that he might better prepare himself for the important work on which he was about to enter. Later still he did correspondence study under the direction of the Princeton (Indiana) University, which conferred on him the D. D. degree.

His first pastorate was the Bethel Baptist Church, which



he served for three years. Here property was bought for a new church. He resigned that work to accept the pastorate of the New Elam Baptist Church in New Kent County, which he served for thirteen years. He has been preaching for the congregation at Collossian Baptist Church for seven years, Grafton three years, Mt. Hermon in Princess Ann County four years, and Ebenezer one year. New houses of worship have been erected at New Elam and Collossian and the church at Mt. Hermon has been repaired.

At this time Dr. Harris is preaching at Ebenezer, Collossian and Mt. Hermon and is temporarily filling in at Grafton. He has had a fruitful ministry and has baptized more than five hundred persons into the membership of the church. He is President of the Sunday School Union of Princess Anne County, Division No. 1. His secret order affiliations are with the Masons.

Dr. Harris believes that the progress of the race depends upon the right sort of leadership, religiously, educationally and industrially.

In 1882 Dr. Harris was married to Miss Florence Corpew of Norfolk. She bore him two children, one of whom died in infancy. The other, W. M. Harris, survives. The mother of this boy passed away in 1885 and in 1892 Dr. Harris was married the second time to Miss Annie Wilson of Norfolk, who passed to her reward in 1896. On December 8, 1897, Dr. Harris was married the third time to Miss Maggie L. Sears of Farmville, Virginia.

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## THOMAS ERSKINE JACKSON

In the city of Staunton anyone wishing to do so can find the People's Dime Savings Bank and Trust Association, officered and conducted by Negroes for their own people.

It is now twelve years old, and has had one Cashier from the beginning, a quiet, steady going, modest business man, of excellent sense and sound principles—Thomas Erskine Jackson. There is nothing dramatic in his life story but it

**THOMAS ERSKINE JACKSON**



is well worth telling and there is a powerful lesson in it for those who can see.

Thomas Erksine Jackson was born in Staunton January 13, 1868, son of Shadrack and Louisa Jackson. His paternal grandparents were Aaron and Tena Jackson. His mother was sold from her people when very young, never saw them again and did not even know their names. Mr. Jackson will tell you that he had no difficulty in securing an education except that he had to work to pay his expenses. In that statement is found largely his philosophy of life.

After going through the Staunton public schools, he taught rural schools for some years, and then took a course in the Normal Department of Howard University, after which he returned to his teaching in the country schools.

For eight years he published and edited the Staunton Reporter, a weekly independent newspaper which did not enter the political field.

In the meantime he had been building character and so when in 1906, the bank was organized, it was perfectly natural that he should be called to be its Cashier. That position he has now held for twelve years to the entire satisfaction of all concerned.

A quiet, orderly, industrious, useful life. Is there anything better? His father, he says, was ambitious for him and made his children go to school. This fact he considers the chief factor in shaping his life.

In politics he adheres to the Republican party, but takes no active part. In the church he is active, being Trustee, Steward, and Class Leader in the A. M. E. Church. He is a member of the Masons, and Good Samaritans. His preferred reading is history.

Mr. Jackson was married January 22, 1894, to Miss Susie E. Frazier, of Staunton, Va. They have two children, Erskine F. and Margaret L. Jackson. Erskine served in the army during the World War and Margaret is a capable seamstress, and there again you touch his philosophy of life—"Useful Work."

His keyword for his own race is "Co-operation" and it covers a lot of ground.

Mr. Jackson considers the South the best place for the Negro, that by getting together in a spirit of co-operation, by work, and by thrift, they can solve their problems. From every angle Thomas E. Jackson is a good citizen. May his tribe increase.

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## GEORGE WASHINGTON POWELL

It is a fine thing in the history of a community and in the life of a pastor when he, the pastor, becomes more than a preacher and is looked upon as a citizen, a neighbor and a friend. That is a condition which it is impossible to realize in a short pastorate. Of course, a man must be possessed of those qualities which wear well, if he is to render effective service in the same church over a long period of years. And that is just what has made the work of Rev. George Washington Powell, D. D., pastor of the Second Baptist Church of Falls Church, Va., a success. There is nothing sensational about him or about his work. He preaches an intelligent, practical gospel which bears fruit in the steady growth and development of his people. As a citizen he is always willing to do his part in every forward movement.

Dr. Powell is a native of Bedford County, where he was born on June 4, 1878. His father, Colahill Powell, was a farmer and was the son of Louis Powell. Dr. Powell's mother, before her marriage, was Frances McGee.

On Oct. 23, 1893, he was married to Miss Josephine Foley, a daughter of Lucius and Susanna Foley of Prince William County. They have one daughter, Ethel Powell.

As a boy young Powell grew up on the farm. When about fifteen years of age he experienced the new birth and joined the Washington Street Baptist Church. From earliest childhood he had felt inclined to be a preacher. Perhaps the fact that an older brother was a minister planted the idea in his mind originally. However, as he grew older the conviction grew on him and he followed the leadership

**GEORGE WASHINGTON POWELL**

of the spirit and dedicated his life to the preaching of the Gospel. He attended Wayland Seminary at Washington for his literary work and pursued his theological studies in the school of theology at Howard University. Later he did further work in theology through a correspondence course, and it is in that connection that the D. D. degree was conferred on him.

In 1899, he was called to the pastorate of the Second Baptist Church of Falls Church and by that body ordained to the full work of the ministry. Here he has labored for twenty-two years. The church has had a steady, healthy growth under his ministry. Naturally, being so near the national capital (six miles) there has been a great deal of coming and going. Plans are now (1921) under way for the erection of a new house of worship. Since 1914 Dr. Powell has been serving the Mt. Olive Baptist Church at Lincoln in Loudon County, giving one Sunday a month to that work.

He is a loyal race man in the best sense of the term. He believes that success for the individual and for the race must be based on service. At the same time, he believes that every individual and each race is entitled to a square deal and a man's chance. He is President of the local Inter-Racial Committee and is also identified with the N. A. A. C. P. It may sound trite and old fashioned but Dr. Powell is of the opinion that all permanent progress must be based on character and that character depends on religion in the last analysis. Given character, he thinks the next essential is substance, money, property.

In politics he is a Republican. His favorite reading after the Bible consists of history and fiction. He owns an attractive home at Falls Church, six miles from Washington.

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## WALTER ALEXANDER PRICE

In the ministry, as elsewhere, the bulk of the work is done by quiet, plodding men whose sole ambition is to do good and who are not often given newspaper publicity or public honors. It has always been so and will always be so. Nevertheless these unassuming men are responsible for the forward march of humanity, for where there is one Henry Ward Beecher in a generation there are thousands of these men who turn the grindstone without ceasing for a day. To this class belongs Rev. Walter Alexander Price of Norfolk, Va.

Mr. Price was born Feb. 23, 1864, son of Anthony and Roxana Price. In the reconstruction days after the war his father was quite active in politics. His grandparents were Anthony and Cherry Price and Bennett and Nellie Ballard.

His education was limited to the Norfolk public schools through the grammar grades. Leaving school he became a stevedore and later engaged in the retail ice business, and then he became an expert well driller.

Converted in 1886, he joined what is now the First Baptist Church. A month later he felt the call to preach, but deferred action, and it was in 1901 that he was first licensed to preach and not until 1911 that he was ordained to the full work of the Gospel ministry by the Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Norfolk, Va.

Prior to his ordination he had served as assistant to the pastor of Shiloh Church, Norfolk, for eleven months and then organized Bethel Baptist Church, Norfolk, of which he remained the pastor for four years.

He spent two years as teacher in a private school in Norfolk. In 1911 he was called to Mt. Zion Church, of which he has since been the pastor, having during that time paid the church out of debt, and is now planning to build a new house of worship.

In addition to his work at Mt. Zion in 1915 he took charge of Macedonia Church, Newport News, Va., which

**WALTER ALEXANDER PRICE**

he served a little more than four years, during which time he freed it from an embarrassing debt. Starting late in the ministry, not fully ordained until forty-seven years of age, he has made a record of good solid work.

Mr. Price has been married twice, first to Miss Lizzie Brown of Norfolk in 1885. Of this marriage fourteen children were born, of whom three, Frederick, Walter, and Henrietta are living. After the death of Mrs. Price on Sept. 3, 1901, he was married on Aug. 13, 1902, to Miss Leonora J. Watson of North Carolina.

A preacher and teacher, he sticks closely to his work and achieves. After the Bible he finds historical reading most helpful.

He is a Republican in politics but not active and in fraternal societies holds membership in the Masons, Odd Fellows, and Seven Wise Men.

Like many other thoughtful men of his race he feels that the future welfare and progress of the race is dependent on the right sort of education. Mr. Price has wrought well and has already done a work of which he need not be ashamed.

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## JAMES EDWARD SHIELDS

Prof. James Edward Shields, who for thirty-three years has been head of the Peabody High School at Petersburg, is one of the best known educators of Virginia. He was born at Petersburg after the war, March 9, 1868. His father, Moses Shields, was a son of Edward and Dolly Shields. His mother before her marriage was Miss Fanny Lyon. All were slaves.

Growing up in Petersburg, young Shields attended the St. Stephen's Parochial School and the local public schools. In the development of the latter he was destined to play an important part in later years. From the public school he passed to the Virginia Normal and Collegiate Institute, where he completed the course with the A. B. degree in 1886.

**JAMES EDWARD SHIELDS**



His first school was at Winter Park, Chesterfield County, Va., where he taught for a year. After that, he became principal of the Bishop Paine Normal School at Petersburg for two years, when he was promoted to be principal of the Peabody High School, which, under his administration, has had a remarkable growth. Since the consolidation of the schools of the city two years ago, both the high school and graded school housed in twin buildings, the plant costing \$150,000, the best in the South, are under his management and direction. There is an assistant principal, supervisor, four critic teachers, thirty teachers in the grades, a domestic art and science teacher, with two assistants, a manual training teacher, and five teachers in the high school. There is also a school nurse. This school has sent out 573 young people better prepared for life's duties, and thousands of others have been influenced by the subject of this sketch. The enrollment is 1,780, while the equipment and appointments are the best for good service. The faculty is composed of high school, normal and college graduates. The curriculum has been supplemented and entirely revised so as to meet the demands of a modern educational institution. An industrial department has been added and an opportunity is now given the colored children of the city for instruction in domestic science and art for the girls and manual training for the boys.

In politics, Professor Shields is a Republican, though he has not been active. He is a member of the Episcopal Church and has been registrar of the vestry for thirty years. Among the secret orders he is identified with the Masons and the Independent Order of St. Luke, being the efficient secretary of both organizations.

For progress, he believes that his people must have work. acquire the best education for their children of mind, hand and heart and get property and have confidence in their own capacities. During the war, he was chairman of the Red Cross work and took an active part in all the campaigns and drives, as well as in the affairs of the War Camp Commu-

nity Service. He is also a member of Interracial Committee for better relations between the races.

Professor Shields is Treasurer of the Old Dominion Investment Company, a home-building enterprise. He is frequently called upon to do school and institute work and has for years kept in close touch with the educational life of the State.

On August 21, 1895, Professor Shields married Miss Otelia Helen Jones of Petersburg. She was a graduate of the Peabody High School and was herself an accomplished teacher and still is actuated with the spirit of service. She is president of the local Y. W. C. A. They have four children: Emma L., Otelia R., Ophelia E., and James E. Shields, Jr. The first two are graduates of Fisk University, now engaged in educational work in Lincoln High School, Wheeling, W. Va. The third child is now a student at Fisk and the fourth in the Peabody High School. Thus it will be seen Professor Shields practices what he preaches. He believes in the best education of the children as the hope of the future.

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## WILLIAM ROBERT HOWERTON

Rev. William Robert Howerton now (1920) stationed at Richmond, is one of the forceful and effective men of the A. M. E. connection in Virginia.

He is a native of the State and practically all his life has been spent in the Old Dominion. He was born in Halifax County on Nov. 18, 1868. His father, Thomas M. Howerton, was a mechanic. His mother, before her marriage, was Miss Rebecca P. Owen. His paternal grandparents were Henry and Susan (Ford) Vaughn.

Young Howerton grew up on the farm and as he grew older worked at the blacksmith trade, two occupations calculated to make him physically robust. And as a matter of fact he has stood well the strain of the years and looks younger than he really is. As a boy he attended the local public schools. Like so many of the religious leaders of

**WILLIAM ROBERT HOWERTON**

the race he was converted young, being not more than thirteen years of age at the time.

He joined the A. M. E. Church and was active as a layman. He had hardly reached manhood, before he felt divinely led to devote his life to the ministry. Passing through the various stages required by his denomination he finally joined the Conference at Wytheville in 1897 under Bishop Handy. Prior to this he had gone to school at Blue Stone Mission College, at Abbyville, Mecklinburg County, Va. After entering the ministry he pursued his theological work through correspondence courses, from Kittrell College. He taught school for three years as a young man.

On Sept. 16, 1893, Rev. Howerton married Miss Mary Belle Faulkner, of Roanoke. They have five children. Their names are William R., Richard A., Ethel M., Leander M., and Charles Leonard Howerton.

Mr. Howerton has gone steadily forward from small circuit, which he served one year. His next charge was the State. His first appointment was to the Cave Spring Circuit, which he served one year. His next charge was the Ferrum Circuit, one year. From there he went to Blacksburg, where he preached two years and built a church. Then he preached at Boone's Mill two years and erected a parsonage, Chatham one year, Martinsville three years, repaired the church; Boydton one year, Deep Creek, in Norfolk County, two years; Carrollton four years, and built a church, and Suffolk two years. From Suffolk, he went to the important work at Hampton, where he remained for four years and cleared the church property of a troublesome debt and mortgage. He is now (1920) in his first year at Bethel Station, Richmond. Mr. Howerton has had a fruitful ministry and is a prominent figure in denominational gatherings. For sixteen years he has been Secretary of his Annual Conference, and has attended two General Conferences. He belongs to the Masons and the Odd Fellows. He believes the greatest single need of the race today is education.

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## GEORGE EDWARD CURRY

If merit in laboring in season and out of season for the spiritual good of the race should be held in honor; if those who have been wise in winning souls to Christ and have spent their lives in preaching the unsearchable riches of Jesus should be cherished and remembered, then the name of Rev. George Edward Curry, D. D., now (1921), stationed at the Jackson Street M. E. Church, Lynchburg, deserves a perpetual record among the good and useful. Dr. Curry was born in Greenville County, Va., now W. Va., on May 1, 1860. His father, Henry Curry was a cooper and was the son of Edward and Malinda Cooper. The mother of our subject was, before her marriage, Miss Mary Reynolds, a daughter of Phylis Reynolds. Young Curry grew up on the farm and there developed a robust, vigorous manhood which has stood well the strain of forty years of strenuous work in the pastorate.

In that time he has risen from a small charge to the best appointments in the gift of his denomination, including the superintendency of the district. The foundation of his education was laid in the public school of Lewisburg.

At the early age of twelve, he gave his heart to God, but even before that thought of himself as a preacher. At that tender age his specialty was funerals. Fixing his mind thus early on the ministry, he prepared himself accordingly. He did his preparatory work at Wayland Seminary, Washington. For his college and theological courses he went to Morgan College, Baltimore, where he won his A. B. degree in 1880. He was licensed to preach in 1878. In 1880 he joined the conference at Washington under Bishop Peek.

His first assignment was the Gettysburg, Pa., charge where he preached for two years. He went from there to St. Mary's County, Md., for one year and thence to Shepherdstown, W. Va., for two years. He was then transferred

to the Missouri Conference where he remained for seven years, and while in that Conference served the Glasgow, Fulton and Mexico charges. After that he was transferred to the Des Moines Conference for two years and stationed at Burns Chapel, Des Moines. He labored in the Lexington Conference for seven years. It was while in this Conference in 1895 that he organized the St. Mark's Church, Chicago, which soon came to be one of the greatest churches of the connection. In 1902 another transfer brought him to the Washington Conference. In this Conference he served Martinsburg, Waynesboro, and Winchester. In 1908 he was promoted to the district superintendency and presided over the Cumberland district for five years. After that he was stationed at the Asbury Church in Baltimore for two years.

He is now (1921), closing his fourth year at the Jackson Street Station, Lynchburg, which is the most important charge of the connection in Virginia. Dr. Curry has had a fruitful ministry and has built five new churches. More than twenty-five hundred new members have been brought into the church under his ministry.

In politics he is a Republican. When younger he took a more active part in politics than recently. He was a delegate to the conventions which nominated Garfield and Harrison. He has also had considerable experience as an educator, having taught in Missouri, Kentucky and West Virginia.

In addition to his regular ministerial work Dr. Curry has taken an active interest in all movements and organizations looking to the advancement of his people. He is vice president of the Inter-Racial Committee at Lynchburg and took an active part in all the war drives and campaigns.

His favorite reading, next after the Bible, is along sociological lines. He is of the opinion that "well equipped schools under Negro supervision" will do most to promote the interests of the race.

On April 1, 1881, Dr. Curry was married to Miss Mary

Biggs, of Gettysburg. She bore him two children. They are Dr. Basil Curry and Mary Curry, now Mrs. David. On April 12, 1911, Mrs. Curry passed to her reward. Dr. Cury was married a second time to Miss Frances Morton, of Pomeroy, O., on November 19, 1913.

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